FBIS DAILY REPORT

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ARAB ENERGY CONFERENCE HOLDS FINAL SESSION

JN080807 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0655 GMT 8 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 8 March--The final session of the first Arab energy conference began at 0915 today. The session is chaired by 'Ali Jida, head of the Qatari delegation and former OPEC secretary general. The topic of discussion at this session is a study entitled "Better Policies for Production and Pricing." This study has been prepared by Dadil al-Jalabi, deputy secretary general of OPEC, and 'Adnan al-Janabi, head of the OPEC Economic Department.

Concluding Statement

JN081002 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0905 GMT 8 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 8 March--The first Arab energy conference has called on Arab oil producing countries to exercise their legitimate rights as far as their energy sources are concerned.

The conference recommended the establishment of a joint Arab energy committee which will be entrusted with the task of preparing and submitting studies for the development of a pan-Arab energy policy. The conference authorized this committee to form specialized working groups in the spheres of energy use and resources. The committee will also exchange information and the results of research and studies with Arab regional committees, and will prepare for all Arab energy conferences and follow-up on their recommendations, coordinate Arab countries' participation in international energy conferences, and get acquainted with the energy policies of industrial countries and the effects of their implementation on the Arab countries, in particular, and on the developing countries, in general.

In a statement issued at the end of its meetings here today, the Arab energy conference stressed the need to increase Arab energy cooperation and integration in the sphere of Arab manpower, energy and raw materials. The conference also recommended the establishment of joint Arab projects.

The conference also drew attention to the importance of preparing for the period when oil is depleted, finding new oil reserves and developing other nonoil resources such as solar energy, hydropower and others.

The conference also called on Arab countries to prepare suggestions for developing Arab technical cadres in the energy field. The conference also recommended that the second Arab energy conference be convened in Qatar in the first week of March 1982.

PLO CALLS FOR URGENT ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING

JN071723 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 7 Mar 79 JN

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee held an urgent meeting under brother Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, in which a general review was made of the developments in the Arab area in light of President Carter's conspiratorial trip, which represents a serious escalation of the U.S.-Zionist plot against the Arab cause and the Palestine question.

Following the meeting, a statement was released in a press conference held by brother 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, PLO official spokesman.

Brother Abu Mayzar said that the PLO, which earlier denounced the trends, contents, results and consequences of the Camp David accords, particularly the proposed autonomy, considers this visit a direct and grave contribution by the U.S. administration to the feverish attempts to liquidate the Palestinian cause in the interest of Zionism. Moreover, as-Sadat's persistence in proceeding in his capitulatory and treacherous scheme and in his relinquishment of the Palestinian rights and the holy places creates a very serious precedent in the Arab nation's history. Therefore, everyone is called to face and abort this capitulatory scheme, and by all possible means.

Our Arab nation, which also denounced the Camp David accord, [words indistinct] in the Damascus steadfastness and confrontation summit and the ninth Baghdad Arab summit, consider President Carter's visit to the Arab area a blatant challenge to the Arab nation's will and interests. This visit also belittles world opinion and legitimate international laws, which have all rejected the Camp David accords.

The PLO Executive Committee, while stressing its rejection of and denouncing this visit, is determined to resist the Carter-Begin-as-Sadat design that U.S. President Carter is trying to impose on the Arab nation and on the Palestinian people. The PLO Executive Committee decided the following:

First: To call for an immediate meeting of the Arab foreign ministers to bring about the implementation of the Baghdad Arab summit resolutions, particularly regarding As-Sadat's regime, which is trying to liquidate the Palestinian cause and sign the unilateral capitulatory settlement during President Carter's visit to the area. The PLO Executive Committee will ask the Arab foreign ministers to prepare to hold an Arab summit to cope with the serious consequences of this capitulatory plot.

Second: To call on the Palestinian and Arab masses inside the occupied homeland and elsewhere to resist this capitulatory and conspiratorial visit by announcing a general strike as of Friday, as well as by employing all possible means of struggle.

Third: To call on the general secretariat of the Arab popular conference to hold an urgent session within the next 48 hours to prepare appropriate arrangements for mobilizing the Arab masses and to enforce all resolutions made in this regard.

Fourth: To call on the general secretariat of the Islamic conference to hold an urgent session, by which the foreign ministers of member states may assume their historic responsibilities in coping with this conspiracy against Arab rights and the Islamic and Christian holy places in Palestine, particularly in holy Jerusalem.

Fifth: To call on all Arab countries to fully assume their responsibilities on both the official and popular levels regarding this conspiratorial plot, which is aimed at the Palestine question and the Arab cause.

Sixth: To call on all countries, friendly and allied powers to denounce this imperialist-Zionist conspiracy aimed at the Palestine question and the Arab nation.

The PLO, while facing this conspiratorial plot aimed at our people's rights, our Palestinian identity and at the Arab nation, urges all friendly and allied powers to stand firmly in the face of this plot. The PLO also urges all our struggling honest Arab people to resist this imperialist-Zionist deal in order to safeguard our struggling noble history, our national independence and our holy places.

'ARAFAT ADDRESSES RALLY IN MEMORY OF 'ALI HASAN SALAMAH

JN051518 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 5 Mar 79 JN

[Text] A rally was held in Beirut yesterday in memory of martyr 'Ali Hasan Salamah. The rally was attended by brother Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman, brothers Abu Iyad and Abu Salih, Fatah Central Committee members, brothers Muhsin Ibrahim and Kamal Shatila, a number of leaders of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, the wife of the martyr, his mother and family, and many Lebanese and Palestinian citizens.

Brother Abu 'Ammar made a speech on behalf of the Palestinian revolution. Abu 'Ammar said: Forty days ago I bid farewell to one of my dearest sons. There is no need to grieve, because Abu Hasan Salamah was greater than grief. He was the symbol of the will that was manifested in the unified determination of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, the nationalist front and the Palestinian revolution. This determination reflects the light of our cultural heritage which tells the agents and Carter and Begin, who are now meeting at Camp David II, that their plot will not be allowed to pass.

Brother Abu 'Ammar recalled Brzezinski's remark "goodby to the PLO," and how he ordered his Hebrew-speaking agent Begin to implement the U.S. scheme to annihilate the Palestinian people. There is also an Arabic-speaking agent, As-Sadat. However, the Lebanese fighter in the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and the nationalist front stood by the side of the Palestinian fighters to record the heroic epics of southern Lebanon.

Brother Abu 'Ammar said: The Lebanese and Palestinian fighters did not go to battle to defend the Palestinian revolution or the Lebanese Nationalist Movement but to defend the Arab nation against imperialist hegemony and control.

Abu 'Ammar said: When he ordered this terrorist group under terrorist Begin to implement the U.S. decision, Brzezinski thought that he could destroy the Palestinian revolution. I tell him that nobody can destroy the gains in Lebanon and among the Palestinian people. The Iranian revolution answered Brzezinski. The answer came from our allies the great Iranian people and the exalted Ayatollah Khomeyni: They said no to U.S. interests in the region. The Iranian people said: We are allied with the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement. The Iranian (?revolutionaries) are those who implemented the decision to strike at U.S. interests in the region.

The strategic depth of the Palestinian revolution passes through Khorasan despite As-Sadat's treason and agentry. This depth is made by the Iranian revolution at a time when As-Sadat is trying to open an embassy of the Zionist entity in Egypt. In Iran the Palestinian flag has been raised, the flag of the first Palestinian Embassy in the world.

Abu 'Ammar spoke about the new plot prepared by Zionism and the isolationist forces and about the imperialist attempt to deal the revolution a surprise attack. Palestinian and Lebanese blood will defeat U.S. arms, he said.

SEPARATE EGYPT-ISRAEL PEACE PACT REJECTED

LD071515 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1214 GMT 7 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 7 March, KUNA--Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah said today that the scheduled visit of President Carter to Egypt and Israel concerns these two countries, but Kuwait rejects any separate peace agreement in the Middle East. The minister was replying to newsmen's questions about his expectations of the results of President Carter's tour which is due to begin today in an effort to break the deadlock in the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty negotiations.

This visit, he said, concerns Egypt and Israel alone; Kuwait's position on this issue is known--namely, full commitment to the resolutions of the Baghdad Arab summit. The summit last November rejected the Camp David agreements, on whose basis the Egyptian-Israeli peace talks are taking place under the auspices of the United States. The foreign minister stressed that Kuwait rejects any separate agreement which does not realize the national and nationalist interests of the Arab nation and the Palestinian people.

FOREIGN MINISTER URGES YAR, PDRY TO OBSERVE CEASE-FIRE

LD071620 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1218 GMT 7 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 7 March, KUNA--Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah has called once more on North and South Yemen today to observe the cease-fire which they committed themselves to at the Arab foreign ministers' emergency meeting which ended here yesterday. The minister expressed regret at the reports of the renewal of clashes on the border, and urged that the parties concerned honor the foreign ministers' conference resolutions.

The minister told journalists after his meeting with Algerian Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika that he will be going to San'a' on 13 March to attend a ministerial committee which had been set up by the conference in an attempt to reach reconciliation between the YAR and the PDRY. The committee, which comprises representatives from the Arab League, Kuwait, Syria, Iraq, Algeria, Jordan, the UAE and PLO, held its first meeting here yesterday.

The foreign minister said that he had discussed with Bouteflika the tasks of the mediation committee, in addition to Kuwaiti-Algerian relations and ways to consolidate them.

The reconciliation committee and another military committee have been entrusted with the task of supervising the cease-fire on the Yemeni border and the withdrawal of forces within 10 days; also, ending propaganda campaigns, reopening the border and returning to normal relations between the two countries.

FOREIGN MINISTER TO LEAVE FOR SAN'A' 11 MAR

JN071545 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 7 March--Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah will leave for San'a' on Sunday to attend the meeting of the ministerial committee formed by the Arab foreign ministers' emergency conference, held recently in Kuwait in an attempt to achieve reconciliation between the two parts of Yemen.

Shaykh Sabah told this to newsmen following a meeting he held with Algerian Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika in which they discussed the tasks of the mediation committee, in addition to bilateral relations and means of developing them.

The reconciliation committee, consisting of representatives from the Arab League, Kuwait, Syria, Iraq, Algeria, Jordan, the UAE and the PLO, held its first meeting here yesterday. It and another military committee were entrusted with the task of supervising the ceasefire on the borders of the two Yemens, the withdrawal of the forces within 10 days, termination of the exchanged propaganda campaigns, and the opening of the two countries' borders.

On the other hand, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that "President Carter's visit to Egypt and Israel is the concern of those two countries only and that Kuwait rejects any separate peace agreement in the Middle East." He affirmed that Kuwait's position on this subject, namely the full adherence to the Baghdad summit resolutions, is known.

PAPERS ASSAIL PRESIDENT CARTER'S MIDEAST VISIT

JN071109 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 7 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 7 March--The newspapers AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM and AL-ANBA' confirm here today that the U.S. imperialist attempts will clash with the will of the Arab people, who alone represent the sole and solid reality in this area.

The two Kuwaiti dailies condemn the forthcoming visit of U.S. President Carter to Egypt. They urge the immediate implementation of Iraqi-Syrian unity and the implementation of all the Baghdad summit resolutions. They call for holding an urgent meeting to confront the signing of the capitulatory settlement treaty between As-Sadat and the Zionist enemy.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM says that this stage should be one in which all potentials are unreservedly placed in the balance of the pan-Arab effort for the sake of Palestine and Arabism.

AL-ANBA' says that the Arab nation is today standing at a dangerous crossroad, particularly if the Egyptian regime signs the settlement treaty with the Zionist enemy. The paper adds that the forthcoming visit of President Carter will pave the way for this treaty.

The paper says that previous meetings between the parties concerned with the settlement treaty confirm that the imperialist strategy has not changed.

It says: The road of Arabism will remain our only road and the fate of Arabism is our fate. This ideology constitutes a motive for the pan-Arab struggle. This struggle will continue until this humiliating conspiracy is wrecked and Arab land is purged of the symbols of this conspiracy.

PAPER ARGUES FOR GREATER REGIONAL COOPERATION

LD071527 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 5 Mar 79 p 1 LD

[Ahmad al-Jarallah article: "This Is an Opportunity for Absolute Frankness"]

[Text] Thus far, it cannot be said that the situation in Iran has stabilized. Danger still threatens the Iranian people since thus far not all the oil workers have returned to work. There is also the danger of the emergence of other forces coveting participation in power. This might not be as important as the strengthening of the whole area by reaching formulas of understanding that would on one hand keep foreign dangers at bay and on the other promote an atmosphere conducive to economic development whose effects would be reflected on the whole region. There is no doubt that any civilized progress in Saudi Arabia would be beneficial for both North Yemen and South Yemen, particularly since we are in a new era of understanding between peoples and of intermingling of their interests. The Kuwaiti-Gulf-Saudi rapprochement could lead to a Saudi-Iraqi-North Yemen-South Yemen rapprochement. Governments of the area have become well aware of their people's interests and the language of regional chauvinism is no longer prevalent. All the peoples realize that they have to get together whether on a national political or national economic level. What is important to realize is that rapprochement is bound to come and that the protection of their national wealth could come through joint action by them as one party in both the world political market and the economic market. In the eyes of those concerned, the situation in Iran is still in need of further clarification. More time is needed before views become clear. Foreign forces have well-known ambitions in Iran and the Iranian internal front is in need of greater decisiveness so that minority forces will not be able to exploit what the majority has achieved. Therefore, the need for a formula of understanding among the countries of the area is now more urgent. Sufficient reason for this is that the foreign oil companies have benefited a great deal from the drop in Iranian oil production while the oil countries which have a legitimate right are hesitant to put an end to such unlawful exploitation. It is therefore hoped that yesterday's and today's meeting [presumably of Arab foreign ministers in Kuwait] will be characterized by complete frankness. Let Aden say whatever it likes and let San'a' say whatever it likes. Let Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia express their views without consideration for courtesies. This is not a transient matter because what we want is a formula that will protect us from the dangers of the big fish.

SAUDI ARABIA

PAPER URGES PEACE, FRATERNITY BETWEEN TWO YEMENS

LD071043 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 4 Mar 79 p 1 LD

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] The statement issued by the Royal Court on events in Yemen accurately defined the principles for solving Arab disputes--disputes that under no circumstances should affect fraternal ties, good-neighborly relations and the common Arab destiny.

The Saudi Arabian Kingdom, in confirming the basis of dealings among brothers in accordance with its values and principles, has exerted every effort both to stop the fighting between the two Yemens because of its awareness of the dangers such fighting poses to the Arab advance and the Arab struggle to reach a lasting and just peace in the Middle East and also to block all the loopholes through which the enemies of this advance and of humanity might infiltrate.

The cease-fire reached is the culmination of the efforts by Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries which have realized the dangers of the situation on the Arab and international levels. Therefore, the Royal Court's statement welcoming the cease-fire stems from a desire to avoid shedding Arab blood for objectives that can only serve the enemy interest and to emphasize that differences among the Arab brothers should not lead to armed clashes.

There is no doubt that the cease-fire and the declaration of withdrawal from positions occupied during this fighting will pave the way for the Arab League Council, which is meeting in Kuwait today, to reach solutions for permanent peace and to lay the foundation for permanent stability in the fraternal relations linking the two sister countries.

The Arab League, now that its path has been smoothed and all the elements of success have been provided, must bolster this Arab achievement so that it will confirm the ability of Arab solidarity and brotherhood to shoulder their responsibilities in this critical stage of Arab struggle. It must also consolidate the concept of solidarity and its ability to undertake the fulfillment of joint Arab action. Arab solidarity represents the real will of the Arab nation from the Atlantic to the gulf as well as its spiritual values that stem from heavenly laws. Now that the cease-fire decision between the two Yemens has become a reality, the Arab League Council must pave the way for true fraternal relations and remove all potential causes of new disputes.

UAE

OIL MINISTER WELCOMES DECISION TO REEXPORT IRANIAN OIL

JN071832 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1755 GMT 7 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 7 March--UAE Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah has expressed his pleasure at the decision to reexport Iranian oil to the world markets. Dr al-'Utaybah explained that although the reexport of Iranian oil will help to achieve stability of oil prices, the problem of the prices was not basically due to the removal of Iranian oil from the markets. The problem is related to the oil market conditions and to the law of supply and demand, as the supply of oil in the markets is less than the demand for it. This came in reply to a question by the press on the relationship between the restoration of Iranian oil export to the markets and the stability of oil prices. The question was addressed to Dr al-'Utaybah at the end of the session of the chairmen of the delegations participating in the first energy conference this evening.

AL-'UTAYBAH MEETS WITH SOMALI, MOROCCAN MINISTERS

JN071830 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1740 GMT 7 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 7 March--At noon today, UAE Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah received Somali Minister of Mineral and Water Development Hussein Abd al-Qadir Qasim. The Somali minister told the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY after the meeting that he and Dr al-'Utaybah discussed ways of strengthening the good fraternal relations between the UAE and Somalia. He said: We also discussed questions related to the first Arab energy conference currently convening in Abu Dhabi.

The Somali minister expressed confidence that the conference will succeed in drafting a unified Arab strategy in the field of energy, based on the independence of Arab oil resources and on exploiting them in the Arab nation's interest and for the achievement of its major goals. He said: We hope that the conference will be a cornerstone for establishing an energy system from which the Arab oil-producing and oil-consuming countries can benefit.

Also at noon today, Dr al-'Utaybah received Moroccan Minister of Energy and Mining Research Moussa Saadi, who is currently participating in the first Arab energy conference.

During the meeting, which was attended by UAE Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources Under Secretary Shibah al-Hamili and Moroccan Ambassador to the UAE Hassan el Fassi el Fihri, they discussed the good relations between the UAE and Morocco.

The Moroccan minister said that he and Dr al-'Utaybah discussed questions of interest to the Arab world in the field of energy. He said: Such bilateral meetings will strengthen and consolidate relations between our two countries. We hope that such meetings will meet our peoples' aspirations.

Concluding his statement, the Moroccan minister expressed his profound appreciation of the UAE for its initiative in convening the first Arab energy conference, which will constitute a major step forward in the field of unified Arab action in the field of energy.

UAE-GUINEAN STATEMENT ISSUED ON SEKOU TOURE'S VISIT

JN071906 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 7 March--Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure and his accompanying delegation left the UAE this afternoon for Jidda en route to his country after a 3-day visit to the UAE. UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan led those who saw the guest off. Participating in the sendoff were Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad, a number of ministers and members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic missions accredited to the UAE.

A joint statement was issued this evening on the talks between the Guinean president and UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

In the statement, the Guinean president praised Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan's political, economic, social and cultural efforts, as well as those in other fields, particularly his efforts to unify the UAE people. He also praised his highness' courageous stand regarding the Third World's problems and on strengthening political and economic cooperation.

Both sides stressed the need for Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory, including Jerusalem, and for insuring the Palestinian people's rights, including their right to restore their land, to determine their future and to establish their state on their land. Both sides expressed their satisfaction with the understanding, amity and fruitful cooperation in their relations. They stressed their concern to further develop these relations in all fields to serve the interests of both countries and of the Arab and African peoples.

Both leaders expressed their satisfaction at the achievements in the field of Afro-Arab cooperation and solidarity and the encouraging results of the Afro-Arab meetings aimed at entrenching this constructive cooperation in the Arab and African peoples' interests. The UAE president praised President Ahmed Sekou Toure's stands on the liberation of Africa, on support of the world people's struggle and on the spread of Islam. He urged him to continue to work in defense of the interests of the world's persecuted peoples.

Both leaders condemned the apartheid policy followed by the white minority government in Pretoria and Salisbury. They stressed the rights of the African people in South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe to liberation from the colonialists. They stressed the need to support these people's struggle for freedom and independence. They demanded that South Africa's occupation of Namibia cease. They stressed the need to maintain the unity of Namibia's region. They expressed their support for the African liberation movement in Southern Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe. Both leaders voiced their adherence to and support for the UN Charter and the Islamic Congress Charter. They stressed their commitment to take action for strengthening solidarity and constructive cooperation among the Islamic world's people. They stressed their support for the non-alined movement in its efforts to benefit the Third World people and to bolster their cooperation in all fields.

The statement said that President Sekou Toure and his accompanying delegation acquainted themselves, expressing admiration and appreciation, with the overall progress and achievements the UAE has attained under the wise leadership of President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and his government. President Sekou Toure expressed his gratitude for the warm fraternal welcome and hospitality accorded him and his accompanying delegation during their visit to the UAE. The Guinean president extended an invitation to His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan to visit Guinea. His highness accepted the invitation with thanks, the date of the visit to be set later.

YEMEN--PDRY

MINISTER DISCUSSES KUWAIT CONFERENCE ON YEMENI DISPUTE

LD071610 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Mar 79 LD/EA

[Text] Brother Muhammad Salih Muti, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister, returned home at 1800 this evening after leading Democratic Yemen's delegation to the emergency meeting of the Council of the League of Arab States in Kuwait.

On arrival at Aden International Airport, brother Muti told pressmen that the participation of Democratic Yemen's delegation in this meeting was in response to the fraternal Arab efforts to avoid an escalation of the fighting, to spare Yemeni blood and deprive the enemies of our people of the opportunity to ignite the situation and destroy the gains our people achieved by the 26 September and 14 October revolutions.

Brother Muti explained that our delegation had presented to the meeting a comprehensive historical political memorandum reviewing the historical struggle of our Yemeni people for their freedom, dignity and independence and their struggle to regain their Yemeni unity. The foreign minister also explained in his statement that during the meeting, our delegation had clarified our government's attitude towards the latest developments in the Yemeni arena.

It stressed that what was happening in the northern part of the homeland was conflict between the Yemeni people in the north, led by the Democratic National Front, on the one hand, and the regime in San'a' on the other.

Concluding his statement, brother Muti stressed that our delegation had contributed effectively and positively to enable the conference to achieve such results as would protect our people from the dangers of war and internecine strife [words indistinct] until they fulfill their complete goals of freedom and independence, safeguarding their national sovereignty, achieving their Yemeni unity and determining their affairs by themselves without foreign interference.

DNF SOURCE REPORTS FIGHTING IN SOUTHERN YAR

LD071542 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Mar 79 LD/EA

[Text] A responsible source in the Democratic National Front [DNF] command in the northern part of the homeland has stated that the agent reactionary regime in San'a' has assembled a strong force of regular troops and mercenaries, led by a notorious warmonger, which has attempted to recover a number of areas under the control of the revolutionary people's forces, particularly in the central area and Najd al-Jumai, before the arrival of the committee formed by the emergency conference of the Arab League Council in Kuwait. However, the revolutionary people's forces, backed by the masses, have succeeded in halting this treacherous and barbarous move, inflicting heavy losses on the forces of the agent regime. Fighting was still in progress when the statement was issued.

The statement also notes that fighting was in progress between the revolutionary people's forces and those of the agent regime in the (At-Tafwah) area near Rada and elsewhere. The revolutionary people are winning successive victories in the battles they are waging to further our people's cause against imperialist reactionary influence and to bring about the establishment of a democratic national regime in the YAR.

IRAN'S DECISION TO WITHDRAW FORCES FROM OMAN WELCOMED

JN040804 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0742 GMT 4 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Aden, 4 March--The PDRY Foreign Ministry has welcomed the Iranian Government decision to complete the withdrawal of its forces from the Sultanate of Oman. In a statement released today, the PDRY Foreign Ministry says that this measure reflects the wise policy pursued by the Iranian revolution and that it helps to eliminate the causes of tension in the area and to establish peace and security.

U.S., UK SAID TO ATTEMPT TO DESTROY PDRY REGIME

ID072030 Aden Voice of Oman in Arabic 1545 GMT 7 Mar 79 LD/EA

[Text] "The Will of the People Prevails"--under this headline, the PDRY newspaper FOURTEEN OCTOBER says: Reports indicate that Britain is moving to reinforce its air force in Oman within the framework of consolidating its military presence there. According to another report, Oman, the United States and Britain have agreed that a number of U.S. aircraft should be flown by British officers from Iran to Oman. Within the same context and with the same aim, the United States is supplying the San'a' regime with large quantities of arms, military equipment and military advisers. This is indicated by the fact that the value of assistance for San'a' approved by the U.S. budget totals $400 million to be divided between military assistance and investment projects.

Meanwhile, certain states in the region are announcing the mobilization of their armed forces. Carter has agreed to supply the As-sadat regime with further arms shipments and the Sultanate of Oman has told the United States of its readiness to give the United States facilities to strengthen the U.S. military role in the Arabian Gulf region. As-Sadat has sent units of the Egyptian Armed forces to replace the withdrawn Iranian forces and has also declared his readiness to help the San'a' regime, which is launching acts of aggression against Democratic Yemen and pushing the situation to the point of an explosion between the two parts of Yemen.

Each of these interlinked phenomena is an integral part of the Zionist-reactionary-imperialist plan for the peninsula and the gulf and in the Middle East in general. What the United States and its allies are really aiming at is to find a substitute for their lost positions following the fall of the shah, to strike a blow at another place by committing aggression against Democratic Yemen with the aim of liquidating its progressive regime, and to prevent certain regimes in the area from suffering turmoil which would immediately topple them, as happened in Iran.

YEMEN--YAR

PRESIDENT SALIH INTERVIEWED ON RELATIONS WITH PDRY

NC071135 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1035 GMT 7 Mar 79 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 7 March--YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has affirmed that foreign intervention in the southern part of Yemen is continuously increasing, referring in this regard to the presence of foreign forces exceeding 14,000 soldiers.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih expressed his confidence that the Yemeni people, who have been able to expel the old imperialism, are able today to expel the new imperialism through continuous struggle. He affirmed that both parts of his country throughout its long history, have been a graveyard for all invaders.

In an interview with the Egyptian magazine AKHIR SA'AH published today, the Yemeni president called on the Arab states to heed the gravity of the situation in the area and not to be deceived by the outbiddings of the agent clique which controls the fate of the southern part and which aims, by its outbiddings, to hide its agentry and true anti-national and anti-Islamic position.

The North Yemeni president also stressed the possibility of achieving unity between the two parts of Yemen at any time. He made the achievement of such unity contingent on three conditions: the southern part should revert to being Arab and Muslim; the Yemeni people should be the source of authority under one system and should choose the regime and the rulers through their own free will; and all foreign forces must be withdrawn from all parts of South Yemen.

At the conclusion of his interview, the Yemeni president called for making the Red Sea an area of peace and security free of all foreign intervention. He said that his country's relations with all states on the Red Sea, apart from South Yemen, are relations of understanding and respect.

FOREIGN MINISTER SAYS 3,000 KILLED, WOUNDED IN CLASHES

LD071200 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0716 GMT 7 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 7 Mar, KUNA--The foreign minister of the YAR, 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, in an interview published here today, says that about 3,000 people have been killed or wounded in the fighting taking place along the common border between the two parts of Yemen since the end of last month. It is believed that this figure, given by Al-Asnaj in an interview with the Kuwaiti AL-QABAS, is the first published figure on the casualties in the fighting which began on 23 February. Official statements from both San'a' and Aden point out that clashes are continuing despite two cease-fire agreements reached through the mediation of other Arab countries.

Al-Asnaj said that the victor in the war between the northern and southern parts of Yemen "is considered a loser because the souls and the resources lost to both sides are first and last Yemeni." He added that the recent clashes "resulted in about 1,000 dead and 2,000 injured from the two Yemens, in addition to tens of thousands of displaced people." However, Al-Asnaj did not mention the losses of each side.

The YAR foreign minister said his country will not agree to hold a summit meeting with the PDRY until the latter's forces are withdrawn from YAR territory. He said that San'a' has agreed to a nine-point reconciliation plan with Aden drawn up by the Arab foreign ministers during their meeting in Kuwait last week. However, he said, the YAR does not agree to a bilateral summit meeting between its president, Lt Col 'Ali' 'Abdallah Salih, and the PDRY president, 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, "until the PDRY forces are withdrawn from the YAR."

Al-Asnaj stressed his country's refusal to recognize the Democratic National Front which is opposed to the regime of President Salih and which states that its forces and not those of the PDRY are in control of some border regions in the YAR.

He said: "We do not recognize something that does not exist. Members of the front are receiving their instructions from Havana; most of them are former civilian and military officials and some of them have criminal sentences passed against them." However, he added, "the door is open for them to return from their voluntary exile and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih may issue a general amnesty for all those who wish to return providing that no criminal sentences have been passed against them."

MEMBERS OF U.S. DELEGATION ACCOMPANYING CARTER NAMED

NC071610 Cario MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 7 March--The U.S. delegation which will be accompanying President Jimmy Carter on his visit to Egypt will include U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, Assistant U.S. Secretary of State for Middle East Affairs Harold Saunders, National Security Council member William Quandt and a number of assistants of the U.S. President. Secretary of Defense Harold Brown is expected to join the U.S. delegation.

MENA has learned that when the U.S. secretary of defense arrives in Cairo he will participate in the discussion of the military aspects pertaining to the Middle East area in general and the military aspects of the peaceful settlement in particular.

CARTER ITINERARY; CARTER, AS-SADAT TO SPEAK 8, 10 MAR

NC080614 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 8 Mar 79 NC

[Text] U.S. President Jimmy Carter, Mrs Carter and their accompanying delegation will arrive in Cairo this afternoon for a 3-day visit to Egypt.

President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat and his wife will welcome President Carter. He will also be welcomed by Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak; Prime Minister and Foreign Minister and head of the escort mission accompanying President Carter Dr Mustafa Khalil; People's Assembly Speaker Dr Sufi Abu Talib; ministers; army commanders; Islamic and Christian men of religion; heads of diplomatic missions; and senior state officials.

Following the official reception formalities, Presidents as-Sadat and Carter will ride in an open car to the Al-Qubbah Palace, where the U.S. President will reside during his visit. The two presidents will deliver speeches from the balcony of the palace. The speeches will be directly aired via satellite.

This evening, the U.S. President will visit President Anwar as-Sadat at the At-Tahirah Palace, where their first round of talks will begin. Members of the Egyptian and U.S. delegations will attend. Following the talks, President as-Sadat will host a dinner in honor of the U.S. President and his accompanying delegation.

Tomorrow, Presidents as-Sadat and Carter will visit Alexandria. The train that will carry the two presidents will stop at a number of the main stations, where they will be given a warm popular welcome. The second round of talks will begin at Ra's at-Tin Palace tomorrow afternoon. President Carter will then give a dinner at the palace in honor of President Anwar as-Sadat and the Egyptian delegation.

Presidents as-Sadat and Carter will board a helicopter on Saturday morning for Cairo, where they will attend the special session that the People's Assembly will hold on this occasion. At the beginning of the session, both presidents will make two brief speeches.

The third round of talks between Presidents as-Sadat and Carter will start on Saturday afternoon over a working lunch. Following the talks, the U.S. President will tour the pyramids archeological area. U.S. President Carter and his accompanying delegation will leave Cairo for Israel on Saturday evening.

MINISTER OF STATE GHALI RECEIVES U.S. AMBASSADOR 7 MAR

NC071238 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1228 GMT 7 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 7 March--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali today met with U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Hermann Eilts and discussed various subjects connected with U.S. President Jimmy Carter's visit to Cairo.

The developments in the peace negotiations were also discussed during this meeting.

MENA CORRESPONDENT INTERVIEWS U.S. PRESIDENT

NC071925 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1839 GMT 7 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Washington, 7 March--U.S. President Jimmy Carter praised President Anwar as-Sadat and described him as a great leader of the Egyptian people, a leader who revived hopes for achieving peace by visiting Jerusalem when such hopes were growing dim.

In a special interview to the MENA correspondent in Washington, Adib Indraus, President Carter said that President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem was the act of an inspired leader which has insured a permanent place for the Egyptian statesman in the hearts of the American people. President Carter added: I share with President as-Sadat the hope for peace, a peace which will insure honor and a better life for each man and woman in our countries.

President Carter opened the interview by telling the MENA correspondent in Washington that he will leave Washington for Egypt today in order to hold talks with President as-Sadat, the great leader of the Egyptian people. President Carter added that President as-Sadat had revived hopes for achieving peace at a time when these hopes were dimming in November 1977.

In his statement, President Carter referred to his firm relations with President as-Sadat, saying: I am aware that the personal friendship between us reflects the mutual sentiments of our peoples. President Carter concluded his statement by saying: On the basis of these beliefs, I am certain that with God's help we will be able to advance the cause of peace in the Middle East.

NDP SECRETARY GENERAL AFFIRMS GOVERNMENT POSITION

NC071848 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1726 GMT 7 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 7 March--Fikri Makram 'Ubayd, secretary general of the National Democratic Party, today said that Egypt's stand on the question of peace is firm and will not change and that the Egyptian negotiator's position is based on the solidarity of the Egyptian people, who are not seeking peace at any price but an honorable peace for Egypt and the whole Arab world. 'Ubayd made this statement after the party Secretariat general meeting which was devoted to discussing the arrangements for U.S. President Carter's visit to Egypt.

Fikri Makram 'Ubayd said that masses of Egyptian people will welcome President Carter out of their profound appreciation of the sincere efforts which the U.S. President is making to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. He added that the masses will strongly express their support for President Anwar as-Sadat's stand and his strategy, which is based on the necessity of liberating the Arab land, securing the legitimate rights of the people of Palestine, and achieving security and peace in the area.

PRIME MINISTER KHALIL SAYS U.S. PROPOSALS POSITIVE

NC071450 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 7 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 7 March--President Anwar as-Sadat today met with Vice President Husni Mubarak and Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil.

After the meeting Dr Khalil said that the new U.S. proposals are positive and "that they must be carefully studied and that some amendments might be made to them." Dr Khalil noted that U.S. President Jimmy Carter has made a real and earnest effort for the sake of achieving progress in the peace process. He said that there is an opportunity for peace at present and that "it is a favorable opportunity."

In statements he made to newsmen, Dr Khalil said that there was no real obstruction to reaching a peace treaty if the Israeli side demonstrates the same understanding of the situation in the area and "of the need to reach a comprehensive peace treaty." Replying to a question on the date of the signing of the treaty, Dr Khalil emphasized "that the treaty does not depend on Egypt alone but on Israel as well." The prime minister said that Israel might request that some amendments be made to the U.S. proposals, just as we might.

Dr Khalil concluded his statements by saying that we must study the latest U.S. proposals to see if they are compatible with our position, with a comprehensive solution and with the establishment of autonomy in the West Bank of the Jordan and Gaza--starting with Gaza--for the sake of establishing a "Palestinian" government authority enjoying full autonomy.

[Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic at 1830 GMT 7 Mar, in a report on Khalil's statements, notes that: "Dr Mustafa Khalil added that this is the first impression of the new U.S. proposals which are in fact based on the Camp David agreement and which are not much different from what had been agreed upon at Camp David. The Prime Minister said: We are looking forward to welcoming U.S. President Carter on his arrival in Cairo tomorrow.

["Asked if he would meet today with the U.S. delegation, the prime minister said that he would meet tomorrow with the Cabinet to discuss the new U.S. proposals. He added: We will then be ready to discuss them with the U.S. side.

["On the repeated speculations that a peace agreement will be signed next week, the prime minister said: The signing of the agreement does not depend upon the Egyptian stand only.

["Engineer Sulayman Mutuwalli, minister of state for Cabinet affairs and local government, has said that the Cabinet will meet at 1030 tomorrow under the chairmanship of Dr Khalil to discuss the latest developments in the situation regarding the peace talks."]

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE DISCUSSES U.S. PROPOSALS 7 MAR

NC072020 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2004 GMT 7 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 7 March--A technical committee composed of experts who took part in various stages of the Middle East peace negotiations held a 4-hour meeting this afternoon at the Foreign Ministry to discuss and analyze the latest U.S. proposals.

The committee will submit a report on the outcome of its study to Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil tomorrow morning before the Cabinet meeting.

DAMASCUS REPORTS ARRESTS ON EVE OF CARTER'S VISIT

JN071703 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 7 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Cairo--As-Sadat's intelligence service has paved the way for U.S. President Carter's visit to Egypt tomorrow by unleashing a wide-scale arrest campaign among the popular and patriotic Egyptian forces that oppose the policy of capitulation and of linking Egypt with the imperialist-Zionist sphere of influence and isolating it from its pan-Arab affiliation.

Information received from the Egyptian capital says that As-Sadat's intelligence service has arrested 'Ali Abu al-'Izz al-Hariri, general secretariat member of the Progressive Unionist Grouping Party and former deputy in the Egyptian People's Assembly. The Egyptian intelligence service sent Al-Hariri under guard from Alexandria to a prison in Ishbin al-Kawm. Other forces attacked the Progressive Unionist Grouping Party's headquarters in Alexandria and assaulted, insulted and then arrested several of its members.

Citing sources in the Progressive Unionist Grouping Party, reports state that the provocations against the party's members and offices in all districts are at the instructions of high-ranking officials and are intended to silence the opposition as part of the preparations taking place to receive U.S. President Carter.

KHALIL MAKES STATEMENT AFTER CABINET MEETING 8 MAR

NC081155 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1125 GMT 8 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 8 March--The Egyptian Cabinet held an emergency session under Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil at 1045 today to consider the new U.S. proposals on the Middle East peace treaty.

After the more than 2-hour meeting, Dr Khalil said that the Cabinet had been acquainted with the new proposals submitted by the U.S. side, which is considered as a partner in the negotiations. He added that he told the Cabinet that these amendments have been studied at the Foreign Ministry and that we have some observations that will be discussed immediately after the arrival of U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

Answering a question on the U.S. position and whether there is any U.S. pressure, Dr Khalil said: The U.S. side is exerting a praiseworthy effort. It is making a real effort and I absolutely cannot say that there is pressure by the U.S. side. We must deny this.

Dr Khalil added: The U.S. side has not come to exert pressure on us because I told President Carter at our first meeting that Egypt refuses any pressure on it.

Asked whether there are slight changes that might call for optimism, the prime minister said: We are fully optimistic. Asked whether Egypt has seen the Israeli amendments, he said that he has not yet seen them in an official capacity.

Asked if there were assurances from President Carter regarding some formulations in the draft treaty, Dr Khalil said: I said that we received some proposals, which we have studied. They lend themselves to amendment.

Asked whether there were U.S. guarantees which exempt [as received] Egypt from clear provisions in the agreement, Dr Khalil said that the United States is considered a partner in the matter in the sense that when the signing took place at Camp David, the U.S. side signed as well. The United States is using its good offices to make both sides abide by the provisions that were signed.

The prime minister wondered in what form the U.S. pledge would be, saying that the United States is a signatory of the letters and is a party. [sentence as received]

PRESIDENT CARTER ARRIVES IN CAIRO 8 MAR

NC081207 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1202 GMT 8 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 8 March--U.S. President Jimmy Carter and his wife arrived in Cairo at 1400 today. President Carter was received by President Anwar as-Sadat and Mrs Jihan as-Sadat.

COMMENTATOR ON REASONS BEHIND CARTER'S MIDEAST VISIT

LD071902 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Mar 79 LD

[Hasan ash-Shurah commentary]

[Text] From the U.S. desire to be a full partner in the peacemaking process in the Middle East stems the surprising and unexpected visit by U.S. President Jimmy Carter to Egypt and Israel.

It is nearly 6 months since the Camp David documents were signed. There have been deep differences between Egypt and Israel on the implementation of the provisions of the Camp David documents, and negotiations between the two sides have run into trouble more than once. There has been pessimism and frustration among all international observers due to Israel's stubborn attitude to the peace efforts. It is against this background that the U.S. President took the unexpected decision to visit Egypt and Israel, within the framework of the intensified and sincere efforts of the United States to reach a comprehensive and stable peace agreement in the Middle East.

It is premature to make predictions about the outcome of the U.S. President's visit to the region. Despite the fact that all world circles welcome the visit--it being a daring and a brave step by the U.S. President and a proof of his (?desire) and firm determination to persist in his efforts to resolve the crisis peacefully--U.S. circles themselves continue to stress that the differences in viewpoints are still deep and require more effort if they are to be overcome. This is what has prompted the U.S. President to make his surprising decision to visit the region.

Out of his deep belief in the principles of right and justice and out of his concern for U.S. interests in the Middle East region, the U.S. President has taken it upon himself to play a role that circumstances have imposed on the United States--it being a great world power with considerable interests in the region--and also to play the role of a full partner in the peace negotiations and in anchoring the foundations of security and stability in the region.

The U.S. role has been clear from the time the United States underlined Egypt's intense concern that a just and comprehensive peace be reached in the region. The U.S. viewpoint continually came nearer to that of Egypt, and on many important questions both viewpoints met. Furthermore, the whole world could see that the U.S. viewpoint was moving away from that of Israel, and that it was moving closer to that of Egypt.

When signs appeared on the horizon threatening the efforts so far made with failure, and also threatening a deadlock which would endanger all the efforts and available chances for peace, the U.S. President made known his determination to continue the efforts aimed at getting out of the deadlock which the crisis had reached, especially after Menahem Begin's rejection of the proposals put to him at the various stages in the negotiations which have taken place since the signing of the Camp David documents. The U.S. President declared that if we allow this available chance to establish peace slip from our hands, history and future generations will condemn us.

So to save the chances of peace from collapsing and slipping away, the U.S. President submitted fresh U.S. proposals to Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin who was then in Washington. At the same time as he received the Israeli Government's approval of these proposals, the U.S. President made known the date of his visit to Egypt to enter into discussions with President as-Sadat about these new U.S. proposals. In its role as a full partner in the peacemaking process, the United States has deemed it to be its duty and also in its interest to submit these new proposals in an attempt to break the deadlock, to overcome the obstacles to which the negotiations have been exposed, and in order not to let the chances of peace to be exposed to collapse, and in order not to enter into a new confusion of possibilities in this region, which is experiencing radical changes which are about to blow away U.S. interests and totally remove them.

Without going into the details of the international changes which are taking place around the region on all sides, we would like to stress that these changes have not been far from the calculations of the U.S. administration and President Carter, especially after President Carter became certain of the correctness of the Egyptian viewpoint, and Egypt's past warnings regarding the probability of the development of these changes and also the events which they were heralding--events which have all actually taken place in Iran, Bab el Mandeb and the Horn of Africa--as well as those suspicious attempts to encircle and besiege the region and to threaten the oil sources, with all the possible devastating consequences this would have on the economy of the West.

It is for all these reasons that the peacemaking process has constituted a necessity not only for the peoples of the region, but also for the United States itself and the whole world. This is what has encouraged the U.S. President to make his visit to the region so as to break the deadlock and reach a final and comprehensive peace agreement.

While welcoming U.S. President Carter and preparing for this welcome both at official and popular levels, Egypt believes that peace is the most important and most sacred thing it is seeking, and does not and will not spare any effort to work for it.

Egypt, which was behind the courageous peace initiative that President as-Sadat began with his visit to Jerusalem, will not spare any effort in assisting President Carter in his task. This stems from the principles which he [unclear whether Cairo means Carter or As-Sadat] believes in and for which he works, namely, the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

AL-AHRAM WELCOMES CARTER'S VISIT 8 MAR

NC080829 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 8 Mar 79 NC

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Writing under the headline "The Expected Hope," AL-AHRAM says editorially: Nobody can say anything for sure about the near future. Despite all attempts to guess the purpose of President Carter's visit to Egypt, nobody has been able to learn the content of the U.S. proposals or ideas that will be put forward for discussion. There have been many comments on the U.S. President's sudden visits to Egypt and Israel. However, they are based on surmise and guesswork.

This visit comes at a decisive moment in the negotiations, which, after overcoming more than 90 percent of the obstacles, were about to be frozen and shelved with other outstanding problems--which would have meant that the unique opportunity that President as-Sadat's initiative provided to achieve peace would have been lost, and that the area would have again been subjected to instability, shocks and victims.

In conclusion, AL-AHRAM says: The entire world is undoubtedly focusing its attention on President Carter's visit. Regardless of how much the assessments may vary about the possible results of this visit, it is certain that there is one common feeling among the hundreds of millions who focus their attention on this visit: the feeling of hope that the area will be lit with the lanterns of peace.

In another article entitled "This Is Why We Welcome Carter," AL-AHRAM says: There are many reasons, including the following, why the Egyptian people should welcome U.S. President Carter:

1. Loyalty is one of the values of the Egyptian people, and violent changes could not rob them of it. The Egyptian people cannot forget the deeds of the U.S. President, including the U.S. tour he interrupted to go to Camp David, where he isolated himself from his country and its problems for 13 consecutive days in an exhaustive attempt to light the candle of peace in the Middle East.

2. The Egyptian people have confidence in President Carter as a leader whose first principle was to raise the flag of the rights of man, particularly since the rights of man are the real essence of the conflict in the Middle East issue.

3. The reception of the U.S. President is tantamount to a new referendum on the battle of peace that President as-Sadat is waging. Visibly honoring the U.S. President is an honoring of peace, one that is based on justice, not injustice; right, not falsehood; and strength, not weakness.

EGYPTIAN JOURNALISTS REPORTEDLY INVOLVED WITH CIA

LD071443 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Mar 79 p 1 LD

[ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau report]

[Text] Cairo--'Ali Hamdi al-Jammal, doyen of the Egyptian journalists and chairman and chief editor of Cairo's newspaper AL-AHRAM, has filed a report against the magazine AL-MUHANDIS AS-SAGHIR [junior engineer] for publishing an article by 'Adil Shalash, the magazine editor, which AL-AHRAM's chief editor considered as libelous and slanderous.

AL-MUHANDIS AS-SAGHIR, which is published by the Egyptian Engineers' Syndicate, reported that six leading Egyptian journalists deal with the U.S. CIA.

The magazine based its report on a publication of an unkown origin which was received in Cairo and secretly distributed to press establishments and some senior officials. The secret publication is entitled "The CIA and the Press." The publication consists of several pages containing the names of a number of journalists in several countries who deal with the U.S. CIA.

The publication lists the names of six leading Egyptian journalists allegedly working with the CIA. AL-MUHANDIS AS-SAGHIR published the allegation by describing their personality and positions but without mentioning their names.

Al-Jammal considered this action by the magazine as an insult to the Egyptian press and Egyptian journalists.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry had earlier requested its ambassador in Washington, Ashraf Ghurbal, for information regarding the publishers of this secret publication. In his reply to the Foreign Ministry, the Egyptian ambassador said that the publication's statements regarding the Egyptian journalists in question are untrue. He said that the Washington POST did not publish the names of journalists working with the CIA, as the publication alleged. The publication is issued by some insignificant U.S. leftist group which aims at slandering all the world leading journalists who disagree with its beliefs.

The ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau in Washington reports that the publication in question could be "COUNTERSPY" magazine which is published by a number of former CIA agents who are opposed to the U.S. intelligence activities. The magazine had stopped publishing for a year and then resumed publication last December. In that issue it published a long article about alleged intelligence agents among Arab journalists, including the six Egyptian journalists in question and Lebanese and other journalists.

The names of the Lebanese journalists in the article have been deleted because, according to one explanation, subsequent information indicated that earlier reports were not true. But despite the deletion, the Lebanese journalists' names remained readable. They include Lebanese chief editors and publishers.

Information regarding other Arab journalists have been published without alteration because apparently the publication is convinced of their truth.

'POPULAR FRONT' CONTEMPLATED WITH SUDAN

LD071137 London AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 5-11 Mar 79 p 11 LD

[Unattributed report]

[Text] AD-DUSTUR has learned that a preparatory conference will shortly be held abroad by representatives of the Sudanese nationalist movement and the Egyptian nationalist movement in order to lay down the preliminary basis for the establishment of a broad popular front in the Nile Valley, including nationalist and progressive parties and organizations. Discussion is now going on regarding whether the [Egyptian] Al-Qafd party should be included or not.

Ash-Sharif al-Hindi, leader of the Sudanese National Front and the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party, called for the establishment of such a popular front between Egypt and Sudan in an article he wrote in AD-DUSTUR 3 weeks ago. The Sudanese Socialist Arab Ba'th Party, one of the mainstays of the Sudanese National Front, also called for the establishment of such a front in a statement distributed on a large scale during President as-Sadat's recent visit to Khartoum.

AS-SIYASI REPORTS SHI'ITE LEADER'S SUPPORT OF AS-SADAT

NC041326 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 4 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 4 March--Imam Muhammad Husayn al-Kalbasi, a leading Iranian religious scholar, has praised President Anwar as-Sadat's efforts and support of Islam and the Muslims. He affirmed that as an advocate of Islam and Muslim's glory in the state of science and faith, President as-Sadat is supported by all Muslims in the world. Therefore, Imam Ayatollah Khomeyni, leader of the Shi'ites in Iran, is truly supporting this sincere man who is dear to Islam and the Muslims.

In an interview carried by the weekly newspaper AS-SIYASI, Imam al-Kalbasi, who is a close colleague of Ayatollah Khomeyni, said that ever since he became president, As-Sadat has been advocating the state of science and faith, as well as earnestly calling for the application of Islamic law in Egypt. Serious efforts are being made to meet the president's call by various departments in Egypt, particularly at Al-Azhar University and in the People's Assembly. He added that every Muslim in the world sincerely hopes that Egypt will lead the Islamic world in the application of God's law since Egypt has been and continues to be leading in efforts to seek the glory of Islam.

Regarding Egyptian-Iranian relations, Imam al-Kalbasi said the Egyptian and Iranian peoples are linked by their noble origin, characteristics, culture and above all by the Islamic faith. He added that the Islamic revolution in Iran, in spite of its religious character, has genuinely sprouted from the 23 July revolution. On the idea and call of Imam Ayatollah Khomeyni, Imam al-Kalbasi pointed out that Imam Khomeyni's call and revolution are based on the earnest desire to establish an Islamic entity guided by Islam.

BAGHDAD VOP URGES VIOLENT CONFRONTATION OF U.S. IMPERIALISM

JN071943 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1815 GMT 7 Mar 79 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brother fighters in all the revolution's bases, the challenges being imposed by U.S. imperialism on our Arab homeland and masses are numerous and blatant. Carter's visit in itself is a challenge to us. The dispatch of U.S. aircraft carriers and the presence of destroyers in the Red Sea are a flagrant challenge to our nation and a violation of Arab land and waters.

The welcome by As-Sadat and other Arab reactionary forces of the U.S. imperialist President and his plots against the Arab nation are an intentional provocation against the masses and their revolutionary and democratic forces.

Carter is not coming to the area just to conclude a capitulatory treaty between the Egyptian regime and the Zionist enemy, but to engineer an overall plot against the Arab nation and to return direct imperialist occupation to the Arab homeland. Washington no longer conceals its intentions of forming a Zionist-As-Sadat-U.S. alliance. It no longer conceals its determination to control Arab oilfields and natural resources and to turn the area into U.S. military bases that would threaten our independence and liberation.

Thus, talk of plots and violations is no longer sufficient; we must pool all Arab resources to violently confront U.S. imperialism and to strike at its interests in the area. We must assert that the Arab nation is not so impotent that it will allow imperialism to wreak havoc in the area without punitive action and real confrontation. If imperialism has military fleets and certain agents in the area, we have the will and the right to defend our land, resources and pride.

Imperialism tried its luck in Southeast Asia. It remembers the bitter taste of its defeat there. Imperialism also tried its luck with its agent, the shah of Iran. It knows the result of its dependence on this agent and on other agents. Imperialism knows what has become of them.

Our nation's masses will not allow Carter to chart the future of our homeland as he and imperialist ambitions desire. Our masses are aware and have fighters who are determined to continue their revolution. Our masses have rich experience in the struggle against imperialism and the Zionist enemy. Thus, our masses have all the means for victory.

MEXICAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN071430 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2025 GMT 6 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 6 March--A Mexican parliamentary delegation headed by Victor Manzanilla Schafer, official in charge of foreign relations in the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, arrived here this evening on a visit of several days to Iraq. Mr Manzanilla said the visit is intended to strengthen cooperation between Iraq and Mexico and the joint struggle against colonialism and imperialism.

KING HUSAYN BRIEFED ON ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

JN071844 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Today His Majesty King Husayn received Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hasan Ibrahim, who submitted a report to his majesty on the talks he held during his visit to Baghdad and his meeting with Iraqi Revolution Command Council Vice Chairman Saddam Husayn, as well as on the results of the Arab foreign ministers' conference in Kuwait.

The meeting was attended by the prime minister, his excellency the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, and his excellency the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

IBRAHIM DISCUSSES MILITARY COMMITTEE'S MISSION TO YEMEN

JN071358 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Hasan Ibrahim, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that the military committee, which will supervise the implementation of the YAR-PDRY cease-fire decision, will leave for the two parts of Yemen either tomorrow or the day after. The committee will assume the task of supervising implementation of the Arab League Council's decisions, which were made at its emergency meeting in Kuwait.

In a statement to Kuwaiti paper AL-QABAS, Ibrahim said that immediately upon its arrival in the two parts of Yemen the committee will appraise the military situation there and will specify its personnel needs and other requirements for performing its task in light of this appraisal. He asserted that the military committee will act as an observer and that its responsibility will center on two basic tasks: to supervise the cease-fire and the withdrawal of forces from the borders; and to implement the conference's decisions pertaining to military matters.

The minister of state for foreign affairs excluded the possibility that the military committee or the observation force might be turned into an Arab deterrent force. He said that the military committee will investigate each side's adherence to the agreements reached at the Kuwait conference. The committee will submit a report to the Arab political follow-up committee via its commander, who will be directly connected to the Arab League General Secretariat.

The minister of state for foreign affairs pointed out that the military committee will be headed by a Syrian officer to be nominated by the Syrian Government, and will comprise four officers, eight warrant officers, soldiers from every member country in the committee and military representatives from both San'a' and Aden.

Hasan Ibrahim returned to Amman today after participating in the Arab foreign ministers' emergency meeting in Kuwait, for the purpose of solving the border conflict between the two parts of Yemen. In a statement made at Amman airport, Ibrahim said that the conference was successful and positive, as it laid the foundation for halting the fratricide among the brothers in the two parts of Yemen. He added that the conference's decision expressed joint Arab solidarity for confronting the Arab nation's issues and problems.

PAPERS WARN OF CONSEQUENCES OF SEPARATE PEACE AGREEMENT

JN080935 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 8 Mar 79 JN

[Press review]

[Text] Commenting on President Carter's visit to Egypt and Israel and on the U.S. efforts to overcome the obstacles hampering the signing of an Egyptian-Israeli bilateral agreement, the newspaper AR-RA'Y says today that President Carter may be making the final offer in the bilateral negotiations. The talk about regional security is the most serious matter which has taken place in the Middle East since the 1973 October War.

The truth which continues to be ignored by the Camp David partners is the existence of the Arabs and of the Palestinian people and their cause. By ignoring this truth, the three partners are trying to transform the Arab area into a proving ground for Israeli, Egyptian and U.S. experiments in regional security.

The paper adds that the United States has provided Israel with the power and the capability to do what it wants. Now the United States wants to provide Egypt with the necessary power and capability so it can carry out what has been planned for it. However, the Arab will, under equal pressure from internal and external factors, will find itself compelled to utilize all Arab capabilities and potentials to destroy the new chain which the Camp David partners are trying to place round the Arab neck.

Commenting on the same topic, the newspaper AL-AKHBAR says that the U.S. President is throwing in all his personal weight to bring off the separate peace agreement which he, more than anyone else, knows will not meet the Arabs' minimum acceptable demands. He also knows that at the same time his country is offering a reward to Israel for its intransigence and extremism, the United States is trying to split Arab ranks and force the Arabs to accept something which they cannot accept.

AL-AKHBAR adds that when the U.S. President does something like this, we are sure that he is most probably aware of the consequences of such acts, or that he can at least predict the consequences. The paper adds that if the U.S. President is not aware of or cannot predict the consequences, it would have been better for him to have consulted his European partners who have discovered that matters are getting out of hand. French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing even telephoned President as-Sadat to learn whether something exists besides what is apparent, because what is apparent is not reassuring.

The newspaper AD-DUSTUR comments on the same subject. The paper says that it seems that President Carter is trying by his visit to kill more than one bird with one stone. First, he wants to reassure Israel and its allies in the United States by signing a peace agreement in Israel's favor. In this way, President Carter would insure their support for him and his party in the next presidential elections. Second, the U.S. President wants to stress to all the countries which received with polite lukewarmness his defense secretary, Harold Brown, that the United States can guarantee its own security and protect its oil supplies without their friendship. Third, the U.S. President wants to hint to the Soviet Union that the United States has found a substitute for Iran, and is determined, as is demonstrated by the parading of its fleet, to show that it is a power to be reckoned with from now on in the Middle East power game.

The paper adds that in a world which can no longer be directed by the big powers alone, the results of any political moves may not necessarily correspond to the desired goals.

President Carter has chosen to defy the countries which have rejected the Camp David agreements. He is doing this in person and in the heart of the homeland this time. Therefore, he should not be surprised if Arab reaction to his moves comes in proportion to these moves and to their danger and extent.

If the U.S. President has chosen to bet on President as-Sadat at the expense of the feelings of the millions of Arabs who differ with him regarding the course of action, then he should be solely responsible for the consequences of linking the future of Arab-U.S. relations to the fate of one man named As-Sadat.

JORDAN TIMES CONDEMNS U.S. 'MEDDLING' IN MIDEAST

JN080846 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Mar 79 p 2 JN

[Editorial: "An Olive Branch Is Still a Stick"]

[Text] As the American President flies into the Middle East this week, an olive branch clenched between his teeth, a flotilla of U.S. warships is poised to steam into the gulf. The declared aim of both extraordinary events, according to Washington: peace and stability in the Middle East.

To Washington this may appear to be a clever carrot-and-stick approach: American diplomatic good-will, on the one hand, used to secure, through the gentle application of digestible measures of concessions and promises, a harmonious understanding between two of the Middle East's key adversaries; on the other hand, American military muscle, unleashed in an apparent attempt to assure America's friends in the region--as well as those perhaps less so disposed--of U.S. intentions to "protect" regional stability, the oil traffic, and western interests. This is what we gather to be the American version of these startling events.

But what we see, instead of carrots and sticks, is two sticks: one with which to beat the Egyptians and Israelis over the head, in order to produce a quick signature of the Camp David treaty; the other with which to drub the Saudis and their allies into going along with the American view of the threat to their own vital interests. There may be a third stick as well: one to be waved in the direction of Moscow, warning it against the succumbing to the temptation to intervene in the Middle East. In brandishing this latter cudgel, the Americans also hope to catch the eye of the Iranians, as they set about rebuilding their network of international relationships.

If Mr Carter thus plans to "speak softly and carry a big stick," he should remember that America is still, three-quarters of a century later, paying the price, from Indochina to Latin America, for the interventionist policy adopted by Teddy Roosevelt, the president who pioneered that approach. And he should also be careful about who gets hurt as he waves his stick around.

No, if this astonishing diplomatic display is aimed at quelling "instability" in the Middle East and in the gulf, it seems almost calculated to have precisely the opposite effect; we thought there were advisers in the State Department and White House basement with enough sensibility about the Middle East to appreciate that fact, but apparently not.

The people of this region will continue to reject a Middle East peace plan that makes no provisions for the three irreducible requirements for lasting peace and justice: a complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, guarantees of Palestinian national rights and the return of east Jerusalem. The Camp David approach, even if seen as merely a "first step," does not do that.

The people of this region will do everything in their power to resist foreign intervention from whatever quarter; sending gunboats to the gulf constitutes such intervention.

The people of this region seek to establish their own network of interrelationships and will remain always committed to the preservation first and foremost of their own, and not someone else's, national interests; isolating the most populous Arab nation from this common ground while seeking to force it into a protectorate in league with the Arabs' one single enemy is a blatant attempt to undermine this determination.

American meddling is turning into American provocation. We don't know who stands to gain from such a development, but there are so many who have so much to lose.

PRESIDENT CARTER SENDS MESSAGES TO ARAB LEADERS

JN080800 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 8 Mar 79 p 1 JN

[Text] Cairo--Responsible U.S. sources have disclosed that President Carter yesterday sent urgent messages to several Arab leaders to acquaint them with the objectives of his Middle East mission.

The sources added that the U.S. President expressed to the Arab leaders the U.S. hope that not only will a separate peace treaty be achieved, but that peace will also be established between Israel and the neighboring Arab countries and that a just solution to the Palestinian problem will be found.

In another development, the U.S. journalists who arrived in Cairo yesterday as part of the official accompanying delegation expect that Carter might surprise the world during his visit to Cairo by declaring his recognition of the PLO.

MINISTER IBRAHIM GRANTS INTERVIEW TO KUWAITI PAPER

JN071226 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0825 GMT 7 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 7 March--Hasan Ibrahim, Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that he expects Egypt and Israel to sign a peace treaty soon.

In an interview to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN today, Ibrahim reaffirmed his country's rejection of the Camp David agreements. He said that Jordan remains fully committed to the resolutions of the Baghdad summit conference. These resolutions call for a comprehensive settlement with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO.

Hasan Ibrahim described the recent talks between the PLO and Jordan as fruitful and successful, and added that the two sides have agreed to coordinate their positions on the Palestinian cause at international forums and the United Nations.

Hasan Ibrahim added that Jordan, Syria and Iraq have achieved much on the road to coordination and cooperation, particularly in the cultural and economic spheres.

INFORMATION MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON SITUATION IN AREA

LD061635 Paris AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI in Arabic 5 Mar 79 p 11 LD

[Interview granted by Jordanian Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah to Fu'ad Tawfiq Na'im in Amman--date not given]

[Text] Question: It appears that since the 1973 war the Arab countries have been pursuing a realistic course in dealing with political matters, thus somehow abandoning the political programs. This realism has been coupled with a "spiritual upsurge." Are you not apprehensive of the dangers of such contradictions?

Answer: Let us examine Arab political realism since 1973. Since that time the Arab countries, more than any time in the 1967-1973 period, have accepted the idea of solving the Middle East dispute on the basis of UN resolutions. Before the October War many of the Arab countries were reluctant to accept this. This reluctance has gone and has been replaced by acceptance of the basis of UN resolutions. If you call that realism, then this is true. On the other hand, if that is realism, then since 1973 and to this day realism does not seem to have given the Arabs the results they expected from it. The actual position now after 5 years is the same, and it can even be said that a certain aspect of this position has turned in favor of Israel. This is the aspect of time, which usually works in favor of whoever exploits time in order to build a status quo. With regard to Israel, I believe that it is true that in the past 5 years it has been isolated internationally, but it has been able to entrench in the occupied territories. Also, President as-Sadat's visit to Israel and the conferences and meetings that followed it, including the Camp David conference, have contributed to breaking the ring of isolation around Israel. However, I do not wish here to judge Arab realism on the basis of profit and loss. I believe that Arab realism is useful, and perhaps it has prompted many parties in the world to isolate Israel politically.

But President as-Sadat's initiative has come to ease the pressure of this political isolation on Israel. At the same time Israel benefitted from this period in order to build the status quo which naturally, as you know, is represented in land arrangements to build settlements and another type of arrangement to link the Arab economy to the Israeli economy, as well as certain administrative arrangements that pass unnoticed and which serve the Israeli status quo. It is important in this regard to recall that Israel has been the most successful state in the 20th century in the policy of imposing the "status quo" and in bringing about new facts through this "status quo." It is the only state ever established on this land beginning with settlers and then developing into a state and later into a state that is gradually expanding. It is the master of "status quo" policy in this century.

With regard to what you termed spiritual upsurge, in fact the term could be general. If you meant Iran, the fact is that what happened cannot be called a particular spiritual upsurge. No one can deny that certain movements were political, although they were headed by spiritual leaders. But those spiritual leaders are not struggling on purely theological issues but are rather working to build a state on a new pattern having a new spiritualism and with a new image in the 20th century--a state building itself on an Islamic foundation.

Question: Is there no danger that, on this basis, Israel and those who back it will seek to establish communal "statelets" on the basis of minorities in the Arab area?

Answer: Certainly Israel is building its defense strategy not only on the basis of military superiority--something which is changeable in terms of equations of peoples and powers--but also on the basis of creating around it states like a string of beads, each bead consisting of or based on a particular community. For Israel this is the ideal strategic position for survival. But is there a conspiracy or an attempt to exploit the situation? The line is so thin that sometimes there is a confusion between a plot and the exploitation of an existing situation. I believe that Israel is trying to exploit the situation, as it is now obviously doing in Lebanon, in order to create communal entities around it. If Israel can, it will certainly do so without hesitation. As a colonialist state Israel cannot remain quiet nor can it survive unless it constantly achieves a colonizer-colonized position. This constant position applies to the majority of population--a majority that Israel will not be able to produce as long as those around it carry a single flag and have a single thought. Therefore, Israel wants to see more than one flag, because then every new entity will deal with Israel individually and without the rest.

All those who have studied colonialism have reached this conclusion, whether they studied the crusaders' campaign in the Arab east, contemporary colonialism in Algeria or current colonialism in Rhodesia. Even in ancient times--the times of Greece on the coasts of Asia Minor or the Phoenicians in North Africa--colonialism could not survive unless it achieved for itself the constant factor, namely the population factor. Therefore, the solution for Israel is to have around it a number of communal states competing with one another and dealing with Israel. In the equation of dealing with Israel these states will always be the weaker side and will rely on Israel instead of being a single state made up of one people with one mind and one thought--in which case the constant factor will be on the side of these Arab states. Certainly this will be in Israel's interest, and we must therefore beware of it, especially in view of what we now see in the present Lebanese situation. I recall a statement by an Israeli commander following the October War. Commenting on the war on the Golan Heights, he said that with the same efforts it exerted on the road to Sa'sa' [on the Golan] and within the same span of time, Israel could have established a Druze state had it headed for the Druze mountains instead of heading for Sa'sa. This reveals the strategic concept of Israel's survival, namely the establishment of communal states around it.

Question: How, in your opinion, can the religious minorities in the Arab east be reassured about the spiritual upsurge, and how can the achievement of Israeli intentions be foiled?

Answer: I do not think that there is in the Arab area a wave of fanaticism justifying fear. We must distinguish between two matters: the concept of a theocratic state--which definitely arouses the fear of communities in such a state--and the desire by the people in the area to preserve their identity and the characteristics of their personality. However we may try, we must admit that the characteristic of the Arab personality is a fundamental foundation in Islamic culture. I believe that if we look at the matter from this angle--namely a cultural angle--then we can reassure the various communities in our area and we can even be on the right road to confronting all the challenges of this age.

Question: Regarding Israel's rejection of the existence of unified states in the area, Israeli military experts said recently that Jordan's access to a Syrian-Iraqi alliance would pose a danger to Israeli security. What is your comment?

Answer: Jordan's relations with both Iraq and Syria are good and there is rapprochement. As you know, there is between us and Syria a practical program for integration in the various economic and political fields. There is a similar program now between Syria and Iraq--a program that could even go further and deeper. We believe that such practical rapprochment based on day to day life is legitimate as well as necessary for the peoples of the area. It is not intended for aggression against others as for the creation of an Arab power capable of defending itself and regaining its rights and capable of imposing respect on other people.

It is not as if we were talking about rapprochement between Italy and Austria, for example. We are talking about an Arab nation existing within certain geographic and political borders in the area that came about under the aegis of colonialism early in the century and as a result of difficult conditions that hindered unity.

Question: It has been noticed that there was no official Jordanian comment regarding the dispute caused by the Palestinian-Jordanian framework of action within the [resistance] organizations as well as during the Palestine National Council [PNC] session which approved the drawing up of a new framework of action.

Answer: We consider the problems and issues which the PLO discusses within its various institutions, including the PNC, as a matter concerning the PLO. Therefore, we believe that we have no right or duty to comment on them. With regard to the Jordanian-Palestinian dialog, Jordan has welcomed and still welcomes it. The question of whether this dialog will be useful or not has not been raised by the Jordanian side. It was raised by some of the factions within the PLO.

Question: Will the joint framework of action which was devised last November remain the basis of the Jordanian-Palestinian dialog, or will this framework be reviewed?

Answer: So far we have agreed on a framework of action. It is a framework. We believe that it is a good and useful framework and serves the Palestinian cause.

Question: We notice that As-Sadat's initiative had a positive impact from the standpoint of Western public opinion shifting in favor of the Arab stand. A recent poll in the United States showed that 37 percent of the American people are with the Arabs while only 31 percent are with Israel. While the majority of the Arab countries condemn this initiative, we find that these countries are benefitting politically and diplomatically from the splits the initiative has caused in the Western circles. There appears to be an objective coordination between the Arab stand and the Egyptian stand.

Answer: No, there is no coordination. The fact is that the Americans and the European countries since 1948 and until recently believed that the Arabs want to throw Israel into the sea. This slogan, as you know, dominated the Western mentality in its outlook on the Middle East problem. Since 1967 the Arabs have accepted Security Council Resolution 242. But despite this acceptance Israel continued to say: No, the Arabs are lying.

The reason is that after Israel occupied whatever land it occupied through aggression, it wanted and still wants to keep that land. Israel, which wants to expand and which even since 1967 has been saying that the Arabs want to throw it into the sea, cannot be happy with the Arabs' acceptance of Resolution 242, because this means that the Arabs are not as Israel used to describe them. Therefore, it wanted to find other excuses and to gain time.

It resorted to several excuses in order not to implement Resolution 242. The Egyptian initiative has shaken this Western view. The Arabs can accept peace, but the Arabs criticize As-Sadat's initiative because it does not clearly define the meaning of peace. It is true that we want peace, but on the condition that it encompasses all the parties concerned and all the problems stemming from the Middle East conflict, foremost among them the Palestinian people's cause. But what we have as a result of As-Sadat's visit and the Camp David conference does not achieve this comprehensiveness, nor will it achieve it or a just solution.

Question: Can it be said that Jordan has become more radical and that it has reconsidered its relations with its previous Western allies?

Answer: This is not true. Jordan is the same moderate Jordan. It is still the Jordan that wants peace. If our friends have come to a certain conclusion that we did not go along with, it does not mean that we have become "radicals." Rather, it means that the others have formed the wrong views, at least from our viewpoint.

The friendship remains despite the differences in views. We are still friends with the Westerners, but on this particular question we do not agree with their views on the proposed solutions.

Question: But Jordan is today proposing the return to an international framework or to the Geneva Conference. This seems to be a "fancy" at present.

Answer: Never. It is not a "fancy." The French president recently made a statement which was close to the Jordanian stand. The problem was discussed at the world organization which came out with resolutions. One of the resolutions provided for an international conference in which the parties concerned will participate. What happened was that two parties departed from this international framework, unilaterally accepted U.S. mediation, and struck a different course. It is natural that when this course fails we should call for a return to the resolutions adopted, that is to the world organization, to prevent this deviation from the course it set for a solution. That is our demand.

Question: Is there any indication that Egypt and the United States are prepared to go back to the world organization?

Answer: As far as I know, there is nothing of this sort.

Question: Can we regard U.S. Secretary of Defense Harold Brown's visit to Israel and the U.S. intention to give Israel more arms as being aimed at making Israel's stand more flexible?

Answer: This question must be put to Dr Brown, because the question of making Israel's stand more flexible is reminiscent of Kissinger's theory which says: The more arms we give to Israel to preserve its security, the more flexible it will become. But this theory proved wrong. The Israelis received arms and found themselves in a military position superior to their adversaries but became more intransigent. Under the protection of such arms they have increased the building of settlements. The arms did not change their attitude. On the contrary, they made them impose their policy even on the United States, which has been unable to halt colonization in the West Bank.

AL-HUSS, OTHERS REACT TO CARTER MIDDLE EAST TOUR

NC0813l0 Doha QNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 Mar 79 NC

[Excerpts] Beirut, 8 March--U.S. President Jimmy Carter's visit to the Middle East, which will begin today, has caused extensive debate in both Lebanese political and Palestinian resistance circles in Beirut. Lebanese officials expressed much concern over the possible effects the results of this visit may have on the disturbed Lebanese situation. Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has hastened to contact the leaders of the Lebanese National Movement and met with a delegation of the movement last night. He also held contacts with the resistance leaders in this regard. Informed sources said that the efforts of the officials aim at controlling, as much as possible, the reactions which may result from the possible outcome of the U.S. President's visit. This visit was also the subject of large-scale official and nonofficial discussions during the past 24 hours: It was discussed at an urgent meeting of the PLO Executive Committee, and in the weekly session of the Lebanese Cabinet. This is in addition to the great interest reflected in the newspapers.

The Lebanese National Movement has called for a general strike tomorrow, Friday, to protest the U.S. President's visit to the area. The movement said in a statement issued in this regard that this visit indicates a new offensive launched by the imperialist-Zionist alliance to compensate for the loss inherent in the victory of the Iranian revolution. The Lebanese political leaders, on their part, have expressed reservation and concern over the possible outcome of this visit. Former Prime Minister Rashid Karami expressed his belief that any solution which is not based on justice and does not vindicate those who are entitled to it, does not represent a solution to the problems, but could result in many other problems. He said that Carter's visit to the area must not be for the sake of strengthening his own position inside the United States or to exploit the interests of others in order to serve his own interests.

Former Prime Minister and Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee for Foreign Affairs Amin al-Hafiz said: We think that the U.S. administration is trying to solve its own problem more than it is trying to solve the Middle East problem.

The Lebanese newspaper AN-NAHAR said that all the ministers at yesterday's Cabinet session agreed on one thing: that, in any event, Lebanon will be the big loser as a result of Carter's visit. This is because Lebanon will see an escalation in the security situation which will be caused by those who oppose the Egyptian peace policy if the treaty is signed. [Words indistinct] will have an Israeli tint if the treaty is not signed.

The newspaper AN-NAHAR quotes Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, as saying that the resumption of the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations together with the announcement of Carter's visit indicates that the peace agreement between both sides will be signed soon. Qaddumi expressed regret that no change has taken place in the Israeli position.

Qaddumi expected that this will increase tension in the Arab area as well as increase the possibilities of war instead of peace. In its editorial, AN-NAHAR said that the U.S. Government thinks that by speeding up the conclusion of a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, it can overcome Middle East problems, such as the problems in Iran, in the Gulf, oil prices, and the Soviet danger. The paper says that this opinion is not the outcome of shortsightedness inasmuch as the outcome of compulsion, which in many cases, is the worst counselor.

The paper expresses the belief that the proposed treaty between Egypt and Israel will neither achieve Arab-Israeli peace nor Middle East peace. In other words, it will neither solve previous problems nor prevent future ones.

The newspaper AS-SAFIR refers to the U.S. President's orders to move the aircraft carrier Constellation from the Philippines to the Sea of Oman, and three destroyers to Djibouti. The paper says that Carter's arrival in Cairo today to negotiate was preceded by the arrival of his armies and weapons in the area.

The Phalangist newspaper AL-'AMAL says that a settlement will take place this week, because the U.S. President cannot afford to fail in the Middle East.

Nationalist Movement Statement

JN080956 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 8 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Beirut, 8 March--The Lebanese Nationalist Movement has called for a general strike tomorrow, Friday, to denounce President Carter's visit and to express categorical rejection of all the results which might emerge from this visit and which are represented by As-Sadat's reaching the end of his capitulatory course.

The Lebanese Nationalist Movement described Carter's visit as a new imperialist onslaught aimed at concluding a capitulatory settlement to the Arab-Zionist conflict on the Egyptian level before moving to other levels in the Arab homeland. The statement issued by the Lebanese Nationalist Movement yesterday stresses that circumstances are appropriate for launching an Arab counteroffensive to contain As-Sadat's capitulation and to improve the Arab situation. To achieve this, the statement calls for the formulation of an Arab plan to achieve Iraqi-Syrian unity, to instill life into the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation, to implement the Baghdad summit resolutions, and to establish a front of Arab patriotic and progressive forces on the popular level to strengthen the frontline struggle against the capitulatory scheme.

The statement also calls on the Arab national liberation forces to make Carter's visit and its expected results a turning point for radical confrontation to reverse the enemy's schemes. The statement touches on the expected repercussions the imperialist-Zionist onslaught against the area will have in Lebanon. The statement stresses that the alliance between the Zionist enemy and the rightwing militias will seek to exploit the signing of the capitulatory reconciliation agreement to achieve its objectives of striking at Arab steadfastness forces.

Speaker's Comments

NC071850 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Mar 79 NC

[Text] The radio correspondent today asked Speaker Kamil al-As'ad about President Carter's visit and its possible outcome and repercussions on Lebanon and the whole region. The speaker replied:

[Begin recording] One cannot assess President Carter's motives for making this visit except by saying that he wants the Camp David conference to succeed and to achieve a bilateral agreement between Egypt and Israel. As for our position on this subject, it is well-known and stems from national and pan-Arab considerations; namely, any Middle East agreement which is not comprehensive and does not include all the Arabs concerned--inasmuch as they constitute one party which is dealing with the same problem--will be an agreement which is bound to disrupt peace and the Arab rights. [end recording]

YAR PRESIDENT ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS, MEETS AL-ASAD

JN0809Z1 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 8 Mar 79 JN

[Text] At 1000 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad held a meeting with YAR President Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The YAR president arrived in Damascus at 0530 today from Baghdad. He was accompanied by an official delegation made up of YAR Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj; Economy Minister Lutfi ath-Thawri [as received]; and Muhammad Salim Basindwa, minister of information and culture.

In a statement to SANA, President Salih stated that he is visiting Syria to present his thanks to his brother President Hafiz al-Asad for his sincere stands designed to spare Yemeni blood. President Salih added there is nothing strange about this because Syria has always been in the forefront of the countries which have stood by our revolution during its most critical situations. President Salih added that he will exchange views with President al-Asad on a number of bilateral and Arab issues of mutual interest. Concluding his statement, President Salih said that he is happy that his visit to Arab Syria, which is dear to every Arab, coincides with the anniversary of its glorious 8 March revolution.

TISHRIN CALLS CARTER VISIT ILL-ADVISED

JN0711Z5 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 7 Mar 79 JN

[Excerpts] Under the headline "A New Onslaught Led by Carter," the newspaper TISHRIN says today that U.S. policy in the Middle East is in real trouble. After the short-sighted U.S. onslaught--with the help of Israel, the As-Sadat regime and the shah of Iran--aimed at controlling the Middle East economically, politically and, to a large extent, militarily, the U.S. schemes in the area have recently suffered successive setbacks. Instead of leading the Arab countries toward U.S. subservience, the As-Sadat regime has been isolated by the Arabs. Instead of strengthening and consolidating the pillars on which the United States has been relying to implement its strategy in the area, the U.S. saw one of the most important of these pillars fall. We mean the shah of Iran whose regime was considered the means by which the United States could have terrorized the peoples of the area and cancelled the political effectiveness of Arab oil in the battle with Israel.

TISHRIN adds that the huge shock received by the United States made the U.S. administration lose the ability to correct the setback by searching for a new U.S. policy which renounced all the factors which led the United States to the position of provocative confrontation and defiance of the people's will. If this were not true, the real authorities in the United States would not have allowed the President of the United States to carry out a hazardous and dangerous adventure in the area. This adventure constitutes a new onslaught against the Arab nation and its interests, and against the efforts for a just and lasting peace.

TISHRIN adds that Syria, which has been carrying the banner of the struggle for Arab steadfastness against the imperialist-Zionist schemes, will never accept a fait accompli and will never submit to pressures and threats. The fate of the new onslaught will certainly not be any better than that of the old one. Those who have advised President Carter to lead this onslaught have not offered him good advice, but have placed him in the midst of a losing battle.

TISHRIN concludes by saying that the new situation the U.S. is trying to create will not be any more effective than the Baghdad Pact, CENTO or SEATO. The Egyptian Army will never stand by the Israeli Army to defend U.S. greed in the area and fight against the Arab nation's interest. U.S. interests will not be secure even in a small part of the Arab homeland if the United States continues to provoke the Arab nation and tries to impose its hegemony and control over the area.

FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON CAMP DAVID, AS-SADAT

ID081047 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 6 Mar 79 pp 5, 19 ID

[Interview granted by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam to AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM--date and place not given]

[Text] Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam said that no Arab country is secure without Arab security, and that the draft alliances now being proposed in the area will backfire. Speaking about the regrettable events in Yemen, Khaddam said that the next step in the Egyptian-U.S. plan is to liquidate the momentous [Palestinian] cause by dividing the Arabs, particularly the Arab oil countries, by turning Yemen into the "Arabian Peninsula's Lebanon." The Syrian minister said that if the Egyptian president tried to wage war against Libya, Libya would not stand alone and it would mean the end of As-Sadat's regime. Khaddam lauded bilateral relations between Syria and Kuwait, and praised Kuwait's sound attitudes toward questions relating to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The following is the text of the Syrian minister's interview with AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM:

Beginning with a discussion of developments in Yemen, Khaddam said: What is happening in Yemen today was to be expected because the situation reminds us of events in Lebanon during the former U.S. secretary of state's shuttle in the area aimed at concluding the Sinai agreement, removing Egypt from the Arab-Israeli conflict and isolating it. It was necessary then to find a smokescreen to realize this agreement. This was found in stirring up Lebanese events. Because of these events and their nature, it was not possible to stand up to and thwart the agreement. President as-Sadat took advantage of these events and used them as a cover to realize the Sinai agreement.

He added: But present circumstances and conditions in the area indicate that what is required from As-Sadat is much more than the Sinai agreement. A bigger smokescreen than the Lebanese events is also required, especially since what is happening now is aimed at finally liquidating the Palestinian problem. Therefore, the problem is bigger, and a bigger smokescreen is needed.

The Lebanese events were a smokescreen for the Sinai agreement, which was the first step on the long road toward liquidating the national cause. Therefore, what is happening between the two parts of Yemen is a link in the chain of this plan which began at Camp David. The aim now is to establish a tripartite U.S.-Egyptian-Israeli alliance. Therefore, the explosion of the situation in the peninsula and gulf area is the big smokescreen which As-Sadat can use to realize the agreement to liquidate the cause and then establish such an alliance. As-Sadat is not far removed from what has happened between the two Yemens. We can also say: Look for the United States.

Khaddam said that the Baghdad Conference played a major role in reunifying the Arab stand and succeeded in consolidating some of the mainstays of Arab solidarity. The Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement has added new strength and created a strategic factor exerting a great influence on the course of the present Arab-Israeli conflict.

Khaddam added: In view of this qualitiative development, it was necessary for Cairo and its allies to create a new climate that would end this solidarity and gain Cairo new factors in the struggle. Consequently, alliances have been proposed, the international conflict has been shifted to the area and an inter-Arab war has been started. All this is the result of the Camp David policy.

Asked about the situation in Lebanon and the probability of it exploding with the imminent renewal of the mandate of the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF], Khaddam said: Lebanon is no longer serving any purpose and the people there have become used to living with the crisis. No one can any longer use Lebanon as a hotbed to involve Syria. On the contrary, Syria is capable of turning the tables on others in Lebanon.

He said: The aim now is to undermine the security and stability of the penninsula and the gulf, and the Yemeni problem was a potential detonator, especially since the internal situation in Yemen was a suitable spark for detonating the explosion so that the countries of the area would become preoccupied with what is happening on their borders. In other words, they have created a basic problem concerning these countries directly so that their concentration on the central problem will weaken.

Thus we find that the events in Lebanon and Yemen form part of the chain of conspiracies under cover of which suspect plans drawn up by Cairo with the help of the United States and Israel's support will be realized. It is evident, therefore, that what is required is to divide the Arabs into two parts and create conditions leading to the outbreak of an inter-Arab war. During such a war one part of the Arabs would be still preoccupied with the Arab-Israeli war. Here we might recall Henry Kissinger's words to Marshal Tito when he told him that the United States will turn the Palestine problem into an Arab problem instead of an Arab-Israeli problem.

Referring to current events in the world, Khaddam said: There are potential explosions everywhere. The world is indeed in a state of turmoil. As part of this world we cannot detach what is happening in our area from the rest of the current international conflicts. He added: All these events in one way or another serve the Camp David policy in that they cause concern to the supporting countries which might at some time become one of the confrontation states in the central problem.

Therefore, we can see that in the final analysis all these events serve the Camp David policy and the surrender policy of President as-Sadat, who has expressed his readiness to make his country the region's policeman at a time when he is not even able to protect himself. All these matters can be viewed only within the general picture of the world and of the area. Therefore, the Arabs are called upon to halt the war between the two Yemens in any way and by any means. For this reason we have acted swiftly in order to stanch the Arab bloodletting and thwart this conspiracy, which is not only aimed at the two Yemens but also at all Arabs, particularly the Arabs of the peninsula and the gulf.

Speaking about the use of force in inter-Arab relations to solve existing bilateral and regional problems, Khaddam said: The use of force in Arab relations is rejected as a matter of principle. Because of our conflict with the enemy, we reject this principle whatever the reason, since otherwise we would be giving Israel the justification to use force against us. In fact, to resolve disputes with military force provides justification of the Israeli theory based on occupying land and then inviting the legitimate owners of the land to negotiate.

The Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister stressed that recourse to violence is rejected because its consequences would affect our conflict with the Israeli enemy, and we will be asked to pay the price. Therefore, our realistic view of the conflict between the two Yemens stems from a national viewpoint regardless of the political attitudes of this or that country since regional security cannot be separated from national security. We do not want the Yemeni arena to become the trap for realizing the Camp David conspiracy, just as the Lebanese arena was the conspiracy for realizing the Sinai agreement.

The minister said that continuation of the conflict between the two sister Arab states would eventually mean its internationalization. The U.S. statements on expediting arms shipments to North Yemen, and the likely reaction by the Russians to such action, probably confirm that there is a plan to shift the conflict to this area and to internationalize it by giving the major powers the excuse to intervene and create an international conflict which Israel will be watching with reassurance.

Replying to a question regarding the conspiracy concerning the proposed alliances in the area, Khaddam said: First of all I would like to point out that the United States does not read history well and has not yet learned the lesson. Probably the fate of the CENTO alliance, the Eisenhower Doctrine and its experience in Indochina and in the Third World are the best evidence that the policy of alliances is no longer of any use in this age. This is because any small country allying itself with a major power would be doing so at the expense of its security and sovereignty. It is also because the policy of alliances primarily aims at insuring the interests of the major powers that propose them.

Khaddam wondered about the quarter that is threatening the area and why there is constant hinting about a Soviet danger. The Russians are far from the area, and the real danger threatening the area comes from the United States itself, which is today proposing the idea of alliances and forming a tripartite U.S.-Egyptian-Israeli alliance, thus ignoring the fate of the [late Iraqi prime minister] Nuri as-Sa'id and the shah of Iran who tied themselves to the United States which, in the final analysis, only cares for its own interest. The best proof is the story of Taiwan and South Vietnam.

Therefore, we can see that the call for alliances is an invitation to the small to become lackeys of the big. We have seen how As-Sadat has been more enthusiastic about this proposal than the United States itself. This is probably because of his sense of isolation after the Arab nation had ruled him out of the fateful conflict with the Israeli enemy. The only thing he can do is to employ his regime in the service of the U.S.-Zionist policy. It would not be anything new to say that As-Sadat has become a liability for the United States now that he has been exhausted. He is unable to provide protection for his own home let alone protecting the home of others through his readiness to play the role of the "region's police."

Khaddam said: "The policy of alliances is hostile to our nation and its freedom. Any Arab regional alliance or foreign alliance would be a threat to the security to the allied country concerned, because any alliance in one place would be countered by an alliance elsehwere. Furthermore, this would be harmful to Arab interests and would divide the Arab ranks. If As-Sadat has pursued this policy to its extreme, it is because his political ideology has become hostile to the Arab nation. The man has lost his sense of balance and has become incapable of protecting his security or the security of others. As-Sadat trampled upon Egypt's dignity and the dignity of its army when he abandoned the cause. He has destroyed his army's morale and left it without a cause to fight for.

The army's duty is to fight, not to defend the interests of foreign powers. But the Egyptian Army is an Arab army and so are its people, who have sacrificed much for the sake of Arabism and its cause.

The minister said: The justifications which As-Sadat gives to his people in order to proceed with his surrender policy no longer fool the Arab masses. He has promised his people a great deal since Nixon's visit in 1974, but has achieved nothing for them. Perhaps we might recall that he asked his ministers to solve the people's problems within 2 months. What was the result? Absolutely nothing. Recently As-Sadat came up with the idea of a "happy home" in order to muffle the people's discontent. Obviously what the Egyptian media says on the authorities instructions is no more than farce aimed at material blackmailing and at changing the character of the battle with the enemy, making it an inter-Arab battle.

Asked about the likelihood of war exploding on the Egyptian-Libyan border as a result of an Egyptian action with the aim of finding a way for As-Sadat to return to the Arab ranks through the intervention of the Arab brothers, as is now happening in the case of the two Yemens, Khaddam said: First, As-Sadat will not return to the Arab ranks, and will sign a peace treaty with the enemy. Second, if As-Sadat launches a war against the Libyan Jamahiriyah he will pay a high price, because Libya will not stand alone and the Egyptian Army will not be with him. It would mean the end of the Egyptian president's regime. He added: In fact, As-Sadat is not looking for a way out of his isolation because he does not have an iota of national conscience.

He said: If As-Sadat wants to return, it would be better for him to step down and find a place to spend the rest of his life. Even if he spent it kneeling and praying he would not be able to atone for what he has perpetrated against this nation.

Referring to the Egyptian people's uprising during the 18 and 19 January incidents, Khaddam said: The problem was that there was no leadership to carry the protest and expression of anger through to the end. I would like to say here that As-Sadat attacks the Nasirites, the leftists, the rightists, the Muslim brotherhood and the Wafdists. We wonder therefore who is with As-Sadat. Are these not all the Egyptian people?

Speaking about the progress made so far in the talks on Syrian-Iraqi unity, the minister said: We are getting along and everything is proceeding in the right direction. At the last meeting of the Higher Political Committee we evaluated the experiment of the last 3 months and came to a new conclusion; namely, the need to entrench and consolidate trust as well as to remove the effects of the previous stage, and also to draw up constitutional and party formulas and achieve unity between the two countries in the shortest possible time. Contacts are in progress on all these matters and we will soon begin drawing up constitutional formulas, because everything is practically ready.

Noting the importance of unity between Syria and Iraq, he said: It is the mainstay which can be relied upon at the present stage in the conflict with the Israeli enemy. We are about to complete procedures of party unity preparatory to uniting the two countries. Our ambition to build a state from the Mediterranean to the gulf has been realized, and we have begun preparing the practical formulas to achieve this ambition.

Speaking about the revolution in Iran, the Syrian minister said: During the shah's regime Iran was a base for defending U.S. interests, and therefore it was an ally of Israel. The shah was trying to dominate the Arabs with the aim of weakening Arab participation in the conflict with the enemy. The shah accepted a policeman's role in the area in the interest of major powers. There was total cooperation between him, As-Sadat and Israel on Camp David. There is no doubt that Iran's change from being a U.S. base to being an independent Islamic country serves the Arab cause. It is also a great qualitative development in the area, particularly since the new revolutionary Iranian regime has stressed more than once that it considers itself one of the confrontation states with the Israeli enemy.

Khaddam said that attempts to cast doubt on the objectives and principles of Khomeyni's revolution are aimed at isolating Iran, because a stable Iran is a support for the Arabs and their cause.

The Syrian minister denied that there is a state of no war, no peace, and said: We are always in a state of war with the enemy. The expression "state of no war" is wrong because we are fighting in every direction. Building a modern school or factory is a preparation for the war of destiny. War does not necessarily mean exchanges involving bombs, guns and planes. It must be said here that Syria allocates 70 percent [figure as published] of its national income for building the armed forces.

Referring to reports about arms deliveries to secessionist militias in Lebanon preparatory to exploding the situation there, he said: Lebanon is no longer a problem for Syria. Our forces are capable of crushing any power seeking to explode the situation. We are aware of the arms and military equipment received by the Phalangist alliance. These arms would not be able to hold out for more than a few days because the Syrian forces have enough power to destroy all sources of firepower.

In conclusion Khaddam praised the strong brotherly relations between Kuwait and Syria. He said: Kuwait's stand at the Baghdad summit was positive and effective. It must be said here that our Kuwaiti brothers' attitudes have been clear on all the aspects of the conflict. As for bilateral relations, they are fraternal and there is not a single flaw in them.

ALGERIA

MORE ON PDRY PRESIDENT'S 4 MAR MESSAGE TO BENDJEDID

LD080837 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 4 Mar 79 p 1 LD

[APS report: "President Chadli Bendjedid Receives President 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il's Emissary"]

[Text] Algiers--Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and National Liberation Front [FLN] secretary general, received Nasr Nasir 'Ali, Central Committee member and PDRY labor minister, at presidential headquarters yesterday afternoon.

During this audience, which took place in the presence of Abdelaziz Bouteflika, Politburo member and foreign minister, and Mouloud Kassim Nait-Belkacem, Central Committee member and minister of the presidency for religious affairs, Nasr Nasir 'Ali handed President Bendjedid a message from President 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il dealing with the events taking place in Yemen.

In this message President Isma'il declares in particular:

"It is my pleasure to express to you first of all our sincere esteem and respect for you personally and for your party, whose recent congress, which was crowned with success, reaffirms Algeria's immutable positions of principle. Your congress was held after the death of the great militant Houari Boumediene, who devoted all his life to the Algerian revolution and Arab and international revolutions.

"The documents adopted by our revolutionary party lay particular stress on your total commitment to the revolutionary line of brother Houari Boumediene, that militant whose death is a loss not only for the fraternal Algerian people but also for the Arab nation, for its militant forces and for the world revolutionary movement.

"Under the FLN party's guidance, the great Algerian people have found in you a successor and another great militant.

"The problems I would like to raise in my message are not new to you. They are the extension of a number of other problems which we had the chance to discuss with brother Houari Boumediene. We tackled them in a militant spirit. Among these problems was that of Yemen, and the unification of its territory and its people formed the vital point of similarity between the views of our two countries and our two parties.

"You have no doubt been following developments in the events taking place in Yemen, regarding which we have declared clearly and ceaselessly, both in our official statements and in bilateral meetings and contacts, that they can under no circumstances serve the interests of the Yemeni people and stability in the area."

After mentioning what is happening in Yemen at present, President Isma'il concluded his message as follows:

"It is obvious, Mr President, that you are aware of our position of principle regarding unification of the territory and people of Yemen.

"That is a fundamental issue for us, expressing our national aspirations."

MEXICAN DEPUTY HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE IN ALGIERS

LD080825 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 2-3 Mar 79 p 3 LD

[B. Taouchichet report: "No Competition With OPEC"]

[Excerpt] Victor Manzanilla Schaffer, head of the delegation from the United States of Mexico Chamber of Deputies which has been in our country for over a week at the invitation of the National People's Assembly, held a press conference at National People's Assembly headquarters last Thursday.

Answering questions put by national press representatives, Mr Manzanilla, who is a member of the Institutional Revolutionary Party and chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the Mexican Congress Chamber of Deputies, enlarged on three themes of a bilateral and international nature regarding which, he said, "complete similarity of views" emerged between the Algerian and Mexican sides. Thus it has been decided to develop cooperation between Algeria and the United States of Mexico in the hydrocarbons field, notably by exchanging experiences and technology.

It is known that, thanks to recent discoveries of large oil reserves, Mexico, an OPEC observer country, is called upon to become a great power exporting this raw material. Mr Manzanilla declared in this connection that his country will adopt a policy of cooperation and solidarity at the international level with the OPEC member countries. He said that Mexico will sell its oil at the same price as that fixed by OPEC, and indicated that an "exchange of views on oil prices" will take place with Algeria. Mexico and Algeria, indeed, show the same desire to use the revenue from oil sales for their policy of industrialization and national development. From this viewpoint too the Algerian and Mexican delegations agreed on the need to "make their voices heard" in the concert of nations in order to "bring about the new international economic order," and the need, with this in mind, to support the efforts of international bodies such as the United Nations and its specialized committees, "in the interests of international peace and security."

MOROCCO

MINISTRY DENIES MILITARY UNITS SENT TO UGANDA

LD071742 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Rabat--The Ministry of State for Information today categorically denied reports circulated by certain foreign news agencies about the dispatch of Moroccan military units to Uganda to defend that country against the Tanzanian invasion.

LE MONDE REPORTS COMMUNIST CONGRESS, ALI YATA REELECTION

LD051113 Paris LE MONDE in French 27 Feb 79 p 9 LD

[Louis Gravier report: "Ali Yata Reelected Secretary General of Party of Progress and Socialism (Communist)"]

[Text] Rabat--By a unanimous show of hands, Casablanca deputy Ali Yata has been reelected secretary general of the Party of Progress and Socialism (communist), at the end of this party's second congress.

Thus the PPS has kept as its figurehead the man who, for some 30 years, has remained the tireless militant of Moroccan communism, whatever form this political family has taken throughout various changes of fortune.

The congress was marked by the renewal of the Central Committee, thanks to the arrival of young militants, who were present at these assizes in much greater numbers than at the meetings of other political parties over the past few months.

For a "National Democratic Front"

The PPS line was approved in the form in which it was presented by Mr Ali Yata in a voluminous report on the "Important Tasks of the National Democratic Revolution." There was no shortage of references to "scientific socialism" (and not the "Marxism-Leninism" which was used in the past as an argument for dissolving the Moroccan communist party).

The PPS certainly does not intend to "underestimate the possibilities" of "reconquered legality." "It is," it claims, "the repository of the Moroccan working class' revolutionary and national aspirations."

Its analysis of the economic and social situation leads it to "acknowledge the failure" of the leaders' policy, although admitting certain positive, but in its view insufficient, aspects and a general tendency to "make the rich richer and the poor poorer."

Among other things, the PPS calls for nationalization of "key sectors" such as the banks and insurance companies, agrarian reform, "rational development" of the state-controlled industrial sector and remodeling of the education system.

It is more determined than ever not to let Moroccan sovereignty over the Western Sahara be challenged and it declares in favor of a "Maghreb of the peoples," but above all and initially, a "Maghreb of states." To put an end to the Saharan conflict, the PPS proposes a "nonaggression pact" among Morocco, Algeria and Mauritania.

The PPS also calls for the setting up of a national coalition government, including representatives of a "national democratic front" which it also advocates forming--in other words, a "union of the left" grouping together the PPS, the Socialist Union of People's Forces [USFR] and the National Union of People's Forces, "with the support of the Moroccan Labor Federation (UMT)."

Deploring "trade union divisions," the PPS believes that the UMT should be a melting pot for "total trade union unity." There is little chance of such a proposal being successful at present in view of the antagonism created at union level by the setting up recently of the Democratic Labor Confederation, allied to the USFP.

DAYAN BRIEFS DIPLOMATS ON UPCOMING CARTER VISIT

TA071248 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 7 Mar 79 TA

[Text] An inside view of what Israel expects from the Carter visit came from Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan who gave a briefing to foreign diplomats. Jerry Cheslow reports:

Dayan expects President Carter to bring new ideas from Cairo on ways of settling the outstanding issues between Egypt and Israel. Among them are the exchange of ambassadors and the wording of a letter on autonomy that is to accompany the treaty. While Egypt is not in favor of an immediate exchange of ambassadors, Israel is demanding that, for a full Israeli withdrawal from Sinai, relations between the two countries be fully normalized. On the autonomy issue, some of the key points are the dates for starting and ending negotiations. Israel is reportedly willing to start those talks a month after the signing of a treaty with Egypt. Jerusalem would also agree to a 1 year target date for the completion of the negotiations.

What if the autonomy negotiations break down through no fault of Israel's or Egypt's, Dayan was asked. He did not believe that under those circumstances the treaty would be affected.

Another question was whether Egypt could act for Jordan if Amman refused to enter into the negotiations. Dayan said that the issue had been raised at Camp David and Israel had not objected. But, the Cabinet still hasn't discussed the matter, or whether autonomy for the West Bank can be divorced from autonomy for Gaza.

Dayan said that so far negotiations on the oil issue have not begun but Israel wants to buy Sinai oil from Egypt at market prices and wants that agreement guaranteed by the United States. He also went into the bilateral issues discussed by Begin and Carter in Washington. Nothing was resolved about the amount of aid the United States will provide for the redeployment in the Negev following the pullback from Sinai. And although a defense treaty was mentioned in Washington there were no negotiations on it, Dayan explained.

Further Details

TA071708 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 7 Mar 79 TA

[From the IDF Afternoon Newsreel]

[Text] Here are details from Foreign Minister Dayan's meeting with all the foreign ambassadors in Israel. Our political correspondent Yosi 'Abadi reports.

['Abadi--live] The foreign minister enumerated eight points of dispute which Israel must solve before signing the peace treaty: Five of these points are between Israel and Egypt. Regarding Article IV, the review of the security arrangements in Sinai, a solution has almost been achieved. On three points--paragraphs 2 and 5 in Article VI, which discuss the treaty's preference over other agreements, and the joint letter dealing with the target date for the founding of autonomy--agreement was achieved in the Begin-Carter talks and approved by the Israeli Government, the foreign minister said. Now only As-Sadat's agreement to the understanding obtained is needed. He did not give details of the U.S. proposals that the government approved. Another point that has not been solved is the Egyptian demand for an exchange of ambassadors after the establishment of autonomy.

Israel has always maintained, Dayan said, that the philosophy of the agreement is full withdrawal in return for full normalization. The exchange of ambassadors is an expression of normalization of relations and Israel cannot permit erosion on this issue. Therefore, Israel expects that Carter will bring ideas from Cairo on this matter.

Another point between Israel and Egypt, which also involves the United States is that of oil. This issue also remains unresolved. There are two further points between Israel and the United States. The foreign minister revealed that Israel expects an Israeli-U.S. agreement which will clarify the U.S. part in the agreement--that is, what responsibility is the United States prepared to accept concerning the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty.

The second point is the matter of economic and military aid to Israel. Here Dayan put particular emphasis on the aid for constructing the new airfields in the Negev.

Dayan said that if the Egyptians agree to what Israel has approved and if we accept the ideas Carter brings concerning the unresolved questions, that is, the issues of the ambassadors and the oil, we will be close to a solution. Then only the bilateral issues between us and the United States will remain.

The foreign minister also said that a defense agreement between Israel and the United States was not discussed at all in the Begin-Carter talks. Dayan revealed that no proposal was submitted to Israel to make any distinction between the Gaza Strip and Judaea and Samaria when founding autonomy. He said that such a proposal was made, without going into details of how, but that it was not submitted to Israel and so it was too early to refer to it.

The foreign minister was asked whether it was practical and desirable for Egypt to replace Jordan in the negotiations over autonomy. He replied that, at Camp David I, it was agreed that the Jordanians would be invited to the negotiations and As-Sadat then said that maybe he would represent Jordan in the talks. The impression we received, Dayan said, was that Jordan's representation would be made with the latter's agreement. Our approach to the matter was not negative. He added that the issue had not been discussed by the Israeli Cabinet.

INTELLIGENCE CHIEF COMMENTS ON U.S.-ISRAEL ALLIANCE

TA071624 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 7 Mar 79 p 10 TA

[Commentary by YEDI'OT AHARONOT correspondent: "A U.S.-Israeli Defense Alliance: The Pros and Cons"]

[Text] The matter of a defense alliance between the United States and Israel has been reraised and reemphasized since the U.S. President announced he would visit the Middle East arena. Prime Minister Menahem Begin has not outrightly rejected such an idea and thus it will probably be discussed again over the next few days during and after Carter's visit. The reference is to a genuine defense alliance which would have to be approved by the Congress and the Knesset.

The idea of a defense alliance has recently been considered by MK Me'ir 'Amit, formerly an IDF general, head of the IDF Intelligence Branch and head of the Mossad. He carefully reviewed the pros and cons of a defense alliance between the United States and Israel:

The Pros

--Deterrence: A defense alliance between Israel and the United States would force American troops to intervene in any violent conflict in the arena following a request by Jerusalem. The United States can mobilize a considerable number of forces. This fact should have a strong influence on the decision making process of the state and the army wishing to attack Israel.

--Reassurance: The existence of a defense alliance between the two countries should have a reassuring influence on the Israeli public which, even though it has confidence in the power of the IDF, fears the increasing strength of Arab countries. This reassurance would create an alleviated economic climate for foreign investments and, perhaps, the burden of the security budget could be eased.

--Flexibility: Decisionmakers at the political level would apparently be able to be more flexible in conducting peace negotiations with other Arab countries besides Egypt since they would know they could rely on broad U.S. support.

The Cons

--Negative image: A defense alliance with the United States would label Israel as an absolute satellite state. Third World states--whose friendship and closeness we seek--would consider Israel an "imperialist" state.

--Dependency: A defense alliance would bring with it complete Israeli dependence, not just military, on the United States (the sad truth is this is more or less the situation already).

--Breach of agreement: Even if the pact were legally formulated and signed, there is always a possibility that it would be violated, particularly when there is a change in U.S. presidents; and Carter's status today is not one that guarantees him a bright future. The mighty United States can always find good reasons to violate the alliance and then Israel's negative image would remain forever.

--Vagueness: The situation in the area is extremely volatile and problems arise daily. New and unexpected situations would create uncertainty and misunderstandings with the United States regarding the implementation of the alliance. Clarifications could take a long time and thus diminish the effect of the alliance.

--Limitation of ability to maneuver: There is nothing to prevent Israel from using its military and political ability to maneuver. However, in actual fact the United States would have some sort of authority and political power to restrict to some extent our freedom of action. It would be impossible "to have our own will."

--Moral viewpoint: Israel has so far enjoyed some public sympathy in the United States because it has never requested U.S. military involvement; it has only requested the tools to defend itself. A U.S.-Israeli defense alliance would make Israel look like "a burden state" and not "an asset state." In the present situation, this could have a negative impact on the warm attitude shown by 200 million Americans toward Israel.

'AL HAMISHMAR Comment

TA071204 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 7 Mar 79 p 1 TA

[By Dalya Shehori]

[Excerpts] The possibility of establishing a U.S.-Israeli defense alliance has not been discussed in the Cabinet so far, although this issue may be discussed if the United States raises this as one of the guarantees for maintaining the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt. In the meantime, reliable sources in Jerusalem believe that Israel will be completely satisfied if it is promised the special $3.5 billion grant to finance the withdrawal from Sinai, the requested military equipment, as well as a regular supply of oil if necessary whether in the framework of a defense alliance or without it.

The Cabinet will meet in special session on Friday to hear a detailed report from Prime Minister Menahem Begin on his talks in Washington. This meeting will also decide on the composition of the team that will meet with President Carter for the political talks. One assumption is that President Carter will meet with the entire Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs, which is chaired by the prime minister.

The issues to be discussed with the U.S. President will be--assuming Egypt agrees to the recent compromise proposals--to settle the problem of the exchange of Israeli and Egyptian ambassadors at the end of the first withdrawal stage, as well as bilateral issues between Israel and the United States.

Another subject that might perhaps be raised now is the place for signing the treaty. Prime Minister Menahem Begin said in the United States he would like the treaty to be signed in Cairo and in Jerusalem. President as-Sadat said in the past that he would like to have the treaty signed on Mt Sinai. Another possibility is that the treaty will be signed in Al 'Arish, if it is returned to Egypt as a gesture on the part of Israel. The issue of the gesture was struck off the agenda after the As-Sadat-Weizman talks in Salzburg, due to Israel's refusal. It is not to be ruled out that the subject may now be broached again.

A senior source said yesterday that if there is no agreement on any of the places listed above, he wouldn't rule out the possibility that the ceremonial signing of the treaty would take place in Washington.

It is worth noting that before the signing the Cabinet must hold a political discussion on the autonomy plan in accordance with both a Cabinet decision and Prime Minister Menahem Begin's pledge to Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon. The Cabinet decision on discussing autonomy was included in the message sent to the prime minister 2 days ago, following the special Cabinet session that had been held on Monday. That meeting, it will be recalled, decided to endorse the prime minister's recommendations. It was also decided to send a separate message to the prime minister with a reminder about several points without which Israel cannot sign a peace treaty. One of those points is discussing the nature of autonomy.

Other points mentioned were settling the exchange of ambassadors issue, U.S. aid and oil. The message was sent to the United States late at night, whereas Deputy Prime Minister Yadin gave the contents of the positive Cabinet resolution to Begin on the phone immediately after the end of the Cabinet session Monday afternoon.

MA'ARIV: ISRAEL READY TO TRADE GAZA AUTONOMY

TA071438 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 Mar 79 p 2 TA

[BY Avraham Tirosh]

[Text] It has been learned from government circles that Prime Minister Menahem Begin asked President Jimmy Carter to tell President as-Sadat that Israel would be ready "to meet him halfway" on the issue of autonomy in the Gaza Strip if Egypt showed readiness to make concessions on autonomy in Judaea and Samaria.

The Israeli concessions regarding autonomy in the Gaza Strip could be referring to an earlier date for the implementation of autonomy--to set a model for autonomy in Judaea and Samaria--and to the Egyptian demand for Egyptian presence in the Gaza Strip.

It has been learned that while he is in Cairo President Carter will attempt to finalize with President as-Sadat the issue of autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the exchange of ambassadors between Israel and Egypt--issues which are not mentioned in the U.S. proposals and whose details, as well as the details of other issues, were not known by the Cabinet members in their meeting on Monday.

However, coalition circles opposed to the U.S. proposals last night said that Israeli readiness to make concessions on autonomy in the Gaza Strip would not bear fruit since President as-Sadat did not want to appear as "a traitor to the Palestinian issue." If As-Sadat conceded on autonomy in Judaea and Samaria in exchange for concessions in the Gaza Strip, that would indeed cast him as a traitor.

People in the government and in various parties who are opposed to the U.S. proposals, as well as the ministers who abstained [in Monday's Cabinet vote on the U.S. proposals], claimed, among other things, that they could not support the proposals because several issues were not clear. They mentioned issues on the nature of autonomy, autonomy in the Gaza Strip, the exchange of ambassadors, U.S. economic assistance and the issue of oil.

They pointed out that the U.S. commitment to supply oil to Israel if Egypt refused to do so was not new and had been undertaken in the past as well. They demanded that the Egyptian commitment on the oil issue be included in a political treaty and not in a trade agreement. It has been learned that Energy Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i formulated a paragraph stating that if Egypt did not supply oil to Israel, this would constitute a breach of the peace treaty. However, a U.S. commitment to supply Israel's oil needs would not exempt Egypt from fulfilling its commitment.

The issue of the defense pact between the United States and Israel aroused arguments among political and partisan circles yesterday. It was noted that the issue had not been discussed at all at Monday's Cabinet meeting and the Cabinet did not know the issue had been raised between President Carter and Prime Minister Begin. Several ministers and Knesset members sharply rejected the idea of a defense pact, particularly if the reference is to the establishment of U.S. bases in Israel. They claim such a pact would harm Israel's status, reputation and prestige in the world. It would also "ruin the morale of Israel's people." One Coalition Knesset member said: "This could be the most dangerous thing to occur. It is enough that we are economically dependent on the United States. Do we need to rely on them for our defense as well? This could turn into a national, educational and political disaster. It could lead us back to the Diaspora times when we depended on the squire's favors. Besides, they would never come to our aid."

The opponents noted that the Americans had suggested a defense pact between the United States and Israel at the first Camp David conference. However, the prime minister had rejected it. Other people were more moderate and wanted to hear what exactly had been suggested and what was the essence of the pact.

It has been learned that Prime Minister Menahem Begin voiced his dissatisfaction with the results of the Cabinet vote on the U.S. proposals (nine in favor, three against and four abstentions). He was particularly surprised by the abstention of Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg, who had previously favored the Camp David agreements and the various peace processes. In contrast, Deputy Prime Minister Prof Yiga'el Yadin said yesterday there was also a positive aspect to the fact that the Cabinet decision had not been unanimously adopted and that there had been a considerable number of reservations (negative votes and abstentions). This pact could even help the prime minister in future negotiations.

MA'ARIV ON COALITION RESERVATIONS ON U.S. PROPOSALS

TA071210 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 Mar 79 p 4 TA

[By Avraham Tirosh]

[Text] Partisan circles pointed out yesterday that there were considerable reservations among the coalition parties regarding the U.S. proposals. The assessment was that a peace treaty based on those proposals could only be signed with the help of the Alinement and Shay votes.

It was noted that the majority of Likud and MAFDAL representatives at the Knesset Security and Foreign Affairs Committee have some degree of reservation regarding Israel's acceptance of the U.S. proposals. Among others, the names of Prof Moshe Arens, Prof Yosef Rom and Eytan Livni of the Herut movement; Rabbi Hayim Druckman and Yehuda Ben-Me'ir of MAFDAL; Yiga'l Horowitz (who is abroad) and Moshe Shamir of La'am are mentioned. Only in the Liberal party is there strong support for accepting the U.S. proposals.

Yesterday assessments were voiced in some parties that if a peace treay is signed in the near future--based on the U.S. formulations--some "hawks" will leave the coalition parties. On this matter, the names of MK Geula Kohen of Herut, MK Rabbi Hayim Druckman of MAFDAL and MK Moshe Shamir of La'am are mentioned. The assumption is that, in that case, a party will be established consisting of the elements now composing the Eretz Yisra'el loyalists alliance. Contacts have already been conducted to set up such a party and MK Yiga'el Horowitz is even looking at the possibility of raising money abroad for this purpose. Professor Yuval Ne'eman has been mentioned as a candidate to head the party.

On Monday, Gush Emunim held fervent consultations concerning the possibility of conducting a large demonstrative settlement campaign in the very near future.

Our correspondent Eli Danon reports: Last night MK Hayim Druckman revealed to the MA'ARIV correspondent that probings had recently been held between MAFDAL and Alinement and some Likud members in order to consolidate clear-cut decisions on the issue of autonomy in Judaea and Samaria.

"The purpose is to establish a common front without any party orientation in order to avoid future dangers," MK Hayim Druckman said.

MAFDAL MEETS TO DISCUSS CARTER VISIT

TA071732 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 7 Mar 79 TA

[From the IDF afternoon newsreel]

[Text] This afternoon the MAFDAL Knesset faction decided that the MAFDAL ministers must bring all the new proposals submitted to the Cabinet following President Carter's visit to it before the Cabinet makes any decision on them. The reference is to proposals involving the points of dispute between Israel and Egypt, including the question of the exchange of ambassadors and the demand for the establishment of Egyptian representation in the Gaza Strip. Our Knesset correspondent Moshe Hakohen Reports.

[Hakohen--live] The Knesset MAFDAL faction was the first coalition faction to hold a debate on the U.S. proposals that were approved by the Cabinet the day before yesterday and the expected visit by President Carter. Of the three MAFDAL ministers, only the minister of the interior, Dr Yosef Burg, was present at the meeting, and he abstained from voting on the proposals. Two others--Minister Hammer, who voted against the proposals, and Minister Abu Hazera, who voted in favor of them--were absent. After the faction's chairman Yehuda Ben-Me'ir, reviewed the Cabinet decisions the minister of the interior took the floor and explained that since the prime minister had told President Carter on Monday that he recommended that the Cabinet accept the U.S. proposals, the Cabinet had no alternative but to adopt them. Otherwise, Carter would have assumed that Begin was deceiving him and recommending, behind his back, that the Cabinet reject the proposals, or that Begin had no power to influence his government. Concerning the expected visit by President Carter, Burg said that it was hard to evaluate its objectives. It may be that the U.S. President thinks that the sides are so close that his visit will lead to an agreement, which would give him political prestige, or that he thinks that the gaps between Israel and Egypt are so broad that only a dramatic step, such as his visit to the region, can narrow them.

During the debate in the faction, MK Rabbi Hayim Druckman said that the latest concessions by the government were not the end of the chapter. The more we are subjected to pressure, Druckman said, the more concessions we will be forced to make.

MK Zerah Verhaftig said that from the beginning the government should not have insisted on the maintenance of Article VI, concerning the preference of the Israeli-Egyptian treaty. The result, he claimed, was that the article was now completely neutralized. Verhaftig also called on the faction to support a speedy signing of the treaty with Egypt, but warned that the real problem, the matter of autonomy, would start after the signing.

Pinhas Sheinman felt that there was a limit to Israel's concessions. We must not agree that signing the peace treaty, even if only initialling it, would be without prior authorization by the Knesset.

David Glass said that time was working against Israel and that a large section of the public, which is bearing the security burden, needs to be convinced that in the event of war, everything possible had been done to achieve peace.

Yehuda Ben-Me'ir, the chairman of the faction, who summed up the debate, predicted that President Carter would not leave the Middle East without the signing of the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt.

Ben-Me'ir suggested to the members of his faction that they remember that Egypt had repeated its public declaration that it refused to be cut off from the Arab world and that it insisted on the establishment of a Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. As-Sadat, Ben-Me'ir said, had succeeded in convincing the world that his no was a no. Israel should now do the same thing.

TREATY REPORTEDLY NOT TO BE SIGNED DURING CARTER VISIT

TA080812 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 8 Mar 79 TA

[Text] Our political correspondent reports that according to evaluations in Jerusalem, a peace treaty will not be signed during Carter's current trip even if the talks are successful. In the opinion of authorized sources, even if an agreement is reached on the points of principle, the discussions will have to be complemented with several U.S. commitments to Israel. The treaty will also have to be approved by the Knesset.

LANDAU SPEAKS ON CURRENT STATE OF RELATIONS WITH EGYPT

TA072102 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1900 GMT 7 Mar 79 TA

[Text] Tel Aviv, 7 Mar--Transport Minister Hayim Landau said this afternoon that in order to make sure that peace between Israel and Egypt is real and not fragile, the negotiations on the peace treaty and on the nature of autonomy should be concluded and the two agreements should be carried out simultaneously. Otherwise, he said, there is danger that if Egypt is not satisfied with the issue of autonomy, this might serve as a pretext for not honcring the peace treaty.

Answering a political question during a news conference at 'Bet Sokolov' in Tel Aviv on transportation problems, he said that while Israel is making substantial concessions to Egypt--60 percent of the Sinai, with its oil--it is only granting us an ambassador, the use of the Suez Canal and the beginning of normalization of our relations. We must guarantee a suitable compensation for the concessions we made and reach a treaty which will not be accompanied by suspicions or include pretexts for violation. Only such an arrangement could be a guarantee for real peace, the minister said.

GREATER YISRA'EL MOVEMENT CRITICIZES CARTER'S VISIT

TA071555 Tel Aviv HAZOFE in Hebrew 7 Mar 79 p 2 TA

[Text] Reacting to the news about President Carter's visit to Israel, the Greater Yisra'el Movement Executive released the following communique yesterday:

"Presented with a choice between confrontation or surrender, Begin chose surrender. The U.S. President's trip to Jerusalem is essentially no different from his summoning the prime minister of Israel to see him in Washington at once, so that within the 10 days he stipulated he would force Israel to sign a peace treaty that has no peace, security or honor for Israel." There is nothing new in the "American proposals," the communique continues, and their acceptance by the Cabinet of Israel is a complete surrender.

The early departure for Cairo is a smokescreen to hide the fact that the latest American proposals tnat were endorsed by the Cabinet had been precoordinated with As-Sadat before they were presented to Begin.

The prime minister is preparing a kind of "Carter festival" during the U.S. President's visit in Israel so as to raise his stature in the United States--a stature that suffered a steep downward trend recently--to strengthen his candidacy in the Democratic Party and, at the same time, to transform the Israeli defeat into a victory.

"The people in Israel should know the enormity of the swindle they have been served in the devious scheming campaign conducted by the Cabinet's leading team, Menahem Begin and Moshe Dayan, and the nation of Israel is called upon to erase the humiliation that has been dictated to it by Begin's Cabinet," the communique concludes.

ARAB MAYORS REACT TO UPCOMING CARTER VISIT

TA071612 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 7 Mar 79 TA

[Text] More West Bank reactions to the Carter trip. Ramallah Mayor Karim Khalaf said that if Carter wants peace he should recognize the PLO and insist that Israel withdraw from the territories.

Halhul Mayor Muhammad Hasan said that the President is coming to the wrong address. He should have come to the PLO. Nabulus Mayor Bassam ash-Shak'a claimed that Carter is not coming to bring peace, but to enter into a pact that will serve imperialist interests.

The mayor of Gaza, Rashad ash-Shawwa, says he is considering requesting a meeting with President Carter during his visit. Ash-Shawwa believes that in the final analysis the visit will adversely affect the Palestinians and impose an unwanted settlement on them.

WEIZMAN PRAISES PEACE, STRENGTH OF IDF

TA061105 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0810 GMT 6 Mar 79 TA

[Defense Minister Weizman address at IDF fallen memorial ceremony]

[Text] Jerusalem, 6 March--Only a year ago we bowed our heads in honor of the boys who fought in Israel's battles and whose burial place is unknown. They merged with the air, disappeared on land or sank in deep waters for us, for the people, for the state.

We declared here, on Mount Herzl, that we have had enough wars--"no more war"--indeed, in the past year we stood on the threshold of peace and it seemed that only a short distance separated us from it. In the meantime, obstacles have arisen on the way to peace. I hope these are temporary obstacles, that it is within peace's strength to overcome them, since we all need peace. It is not only Israel which desires it; Egypt needs it too. In the light of the upheavals in Iran, the United States is doing its best to achieve it. Until then we must not forget that the negotiations are conducted only with the southern neighbor, and from the northern and eastern fronts we still smell the odor of war. Our heart is open to all our neighbors and we are ready to hold out our hand to them for the establishment of neighborly and friendly relations that will contribute to the prosperity of the entire region. Those who continue to threaten our existence should know that any strike at us will be courageously and firmly pushed back. If it is, God forbid, our destiny to fight again, the enemy will meet a stronger IDF. The bravery of its members is its underlying strength. This IDF will rely on modern and sophisticated weaponry that will be able to hit the heartland of its enemy.

SHIRAZ RADIO INTERVIEWS NEW FARS GOVERNOR GENERAL

DO071140 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1751 GMT 6 Mar 79 DO

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, you are hearing my voice from Shiraz, the radio of the Islamic revolution of Fars. The following is a conversation with Mr Nosratollah Amini, the governor general of Fars, which took place following his arrival in Shiraz: [begin recording]

[Question] Hello, Mr Amini?

[Answer] Yes, yes.

[Question] Greetings, I am a member of the imam's committee based in the Fars radio and television facilities, and I send you our greetings.

[Answer] Thank you very much for this opportunity.

[Question] Well, I have heard that after your arrival, you issued a sort of advertisement. Would you like to read it for our listeners?

[Answer] I thought when I came, the formalities were such that there were meetings and information to present. Well, I can say that I arrived basically unknown.

[Question] Yes, I was really surprised, really....

[Answer] Well, I just want to come here and go to work, perform a service. And I am very appreciative. I have always been concerned with the people of Fars and I am proud to be here. As a matter of fact I have a paragraph that I have written that I would like to read:

At this time the provisional Islamic government, with the confirmation and approval of the great leader of Iran, His Great Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni, has appointed me to Fars Province. I begin my tasks with all humility and sincerity in the service of the brave, honorable and struggling people of Fars. I have loved this land for many long years, and I consider this opportunity to be a blessing.

Now that I have received this felicitous assignment, I hope that I will be able to realize my hopes which are to serve this province. This service will be done in the shadow of the great ayatollahs, [name indistinct] Mahalati and 'Abdolhoseyn Dastghayb and the other Islamic leaders, and with the assistance of all Muslims and with the aid and guidance of the people of Fars: the guilds, tradesmen, farmers, workers, and the brave tribesmen of Fars, and the government and private sector workers, as well as the respected security officials, officers and soldiers, and especially the dear university staff and students.

Therefore, it is my request to all the people of the province that they join hands at this critical moment and that they try even harder to realize the interests of the country by making this province a model of peace, order and work for the rest of the country. I ask that Almighty God grant success to one and all, for there is no success but that given by God. [end recording]

REPORTAGE ON EVENTS, INCIDENTS OF 7 MARCH

Qatar Muslims Meet Khomeyni

LD071024 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 7 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Hojjatoleslam 'Abdulhamid Khaqani, accompanied by 70 Muslim brothers from Qatar who have come to visit Imam Khomeyni, have met with the imam at Feyziyeh theological school in Qom.

Qom Appeal for Evidence

LD071120 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 7 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The Islamic Revolutionary Committee of Qom, in an announcement to the public, has requested all plaintiffs in the case of Maj Gen Kamal Nezami, the former military governor of Qom; Warrant Officer Rostami, former employee of the military government in Qom; Mohammed al-Hasani, police officer; and Asghar Haddadi, known as Asghar Hammal--all of whom are accused of being involved in the bloody events in the city--to call at the Red Lion and Sun quarters in this city, or at the revolutionary headquarters in Qom.

Clash With Ilam Tribesmen

LD071125 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The military affairs staff of the Kermanshah Islamic revolution announced today that, in clashes between a group of tribesmen and the people of western Ilam, four people were injured. According to another report reaching PARS from the staff, 17 various arms and a quantity of ammunition were uncovered from an unauthorized group last night and handed over to the staff.

Khomeyni Appeal for Bhutto

LD071205 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Mar 79 LD

[Text] According to PARS, the Urdu language Rawalpindi newspaper TAMIR reported today that two of Bhutto's sons, who are studying in Britain, last Saturday contacted the leader of the Iranian Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, by telephone in Qom. The paper, quoting its representative in London,, says Ayatollah Khomeyni assured Bhutto's sons that, God willing, nothing would happen to Bhutto. The paper also says that Bhutto's sons revealed the matter after their 3-day visit to Iran in a telephone contact with the TAMIR representative.

According to this newspaper, Bhutto's sons, during their visit to Iran, also met with Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari and Ayatollah Taleqani, two of Iran's prominent religious leaders. On its front page, the paper reports that, after his meeting with Bhutto's sons, Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari sent a letter to Ziaul Haq calling for clemency for Bhutto. The paper says that the leader of the Iranian Islamic revolution told Bhutto's sons by telephone that he has sent a letter to Ziaul Haq asking for clemency for Bhutto.

Crude Oil Output

LD071228 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Mar 79 LD

[Text] A spokesman of the National Iranian Oil Company announced today that the country's crude oil output has reached 2 million barrels a day, and the Abadan refinery's production has increased to 450,000 barrels a day. The spokesman said that at present the loading and export of crude oil continue and that loading of oil products has also started from the Mahshahr port.

Taleqani on New Ministry

LD071500 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Mar 79 LD

[Excerpts] His Eminence Ayatollah Taleqani, in an exclusive interview with PARS, discussed women's rights, the ministry for direction toward good deeds and prohibition of evil deeds [amr-e be ma'ruf wa nah-ye az monkar], banking and the problem of autonomy in Kordestan. Here is the text of the interview:

His Eminence Taleqani, with regard to the organization, function and purpose of the ministry for direction toward good deeds and the prohibition of evil deeds--the formation of which is being discussed--and regarding who would sanction enforcing its rulings, said: One of the Koranic principles concerns directing people to do good and forbidding them to do evil, which is a universal responsibility. In other words, every individual has this responsibility toward another individual, one section of the community toward another section, the government toward the people and people toward the government, so that everyone maintains a constant scrutiny over other people to prevent deviation and evil deeds--be it on an individual basis or on a social scale--such as prostitution, corruption, debauchery and fornication and political deviation, and to indicate the path of goodness, happiness and piety, and to explain the harms associated with deviant and harmful deeds. Of course, an Islamic government, in addition to its [word indistinct] responsibility, would also have the responsibility for enforcement.

Asked about the banking system and the economic framework of the country in accordance with Islamic laws, Ayatollah Taleqani said: Banking operations are based on usury--that is, making profit without hard work, making money without hardship--which is, from the economic standpoint, an act of exploitation. It is even worse than exploitation, for exploitation implies that it has been derived from work. But this banking exploits money, which is worse than exploitation in the other sense. For this reason, banks are necessary insofar as they are for the exchange of currency, for facilitating people's business and for concentrating public funds and wealth. But we know that banks in Iran have been created by the capital of foreign colonialist capitalists and their internal agents, and that they have led to, and will lead to, nothing except poverty and corruption on the one hand and concentration of wealth on the other.

On the problem of Kordestan autonomy, Ayatollah Taleqani said: None of them is demanding separation. This was something akin to the Sword of Damocles which the former regime constantly held over the heads of the Kurds to crush them, so that they would not raise their voice and would be stopped from doing anything.

However, to say that any group or nationality within Iran's borders--being under the supervision, protection and guardianship of the central government--should enjoy their natural resources and the fruits of their labor, should be able to preserve their internal language, culture and nationhood, and have their own true representatives--all this is something which is their legitimate right which should be granted to them. Asked about women's rights, Ayatollah Taleqani said he would have a radio and television lecture on this matter soon.

Agriculture Minister Comments

LD071410 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Dr Izadi, minister of agriculture and rural affairs, in an interview referring to the revolutionary committees in urban and rural areas, has said that those who are active in these committees must be aware that the time for constructive revolutionary activities is now at hand. If, as recently, action to erase the memory of the effects of the former regime continue in similar form and manner, those responsible for such actions will be considered antirevolutionary elements. The minister of agriculture said that in future, farmers will be assisted by having at their disposal agricultural and farming facilities, through development of education, communication and necessary instructions and training, in order to increase domestic output and to become independent of foreign imports of agricultural commodities. He also indicated that all frozen meat imported from Australia, Romania, New Zealand and Bulgaria that is contrary to the Islamic code and rules will be classified as such.

Tehran City Council

LD071414 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Mar 79 LD

[Text] In the name of God, the almighty: Inasmuch as the election of Tehran City Council members--like all other elections in the past--was rigged and illegal, therefore its dissolution is hereby announced.

[Signed] Ahmed Sadr Haj Seyyed-Javadi, minister of the interior.

Housing Minister's Comments

LD071420 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Mar 79 LD

[Text] In a visit to the Province of Khuzestan, the minister of housing and urban affairs, Mostafa Katira'i, met employeees of the regional office in Ahvaz. He told them that Iran is not faced with an economic crisis: We intentionally stopped oil production, as well as the operation of all other plants and factories, in order to speed up the collapse of the previous regime. Not only are we not faced with an economic crisis, and not only are we not bankrupt, but rather we have a very bright future ahead of us in which we will be masters of our own destiny and future. He added that the government needs time to embark upon constructive plans and projects.

Six People Executed

LD071305 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 7 Mar 79 LD

[Text] An announcement by the Iranian Islamic Revolution Court: On the basis of the verdict of the Iranian Islamic Revolution Court, six people convinced of having committed obscene acts against poor children, forcing them into prostitution and of living on prostitution, were executed by a firing squad yesterday.

According to information received from the Iranian Islamic Revolution Court, these people, having formed a band of corrupt individuals, had forced inexperienced minors to engage in corruption and unworthy deeds. The names of those on whom the verdict of execution by firing squad of the Iranian Islamic Revolution Court has been carried out are as follows: Jebra'il Kardideh, Behjat Delara, Mohammad Mohammadian, Quch-'ali Sare'i, 'Ali Nasiri, and 'Ali Rudafkan, known as 'Ali Shir.

[Signed] The Iranian Islamic Revolution Court.

Gendarmes' Retirement

LD071548 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1515 GMT 7 Mar 79 LD

[Text] There have been rumors among gendarmerie personnel recently to the effect that those who have more than 20 years of service will be retired. This is to inform all the colleagues that these rumors are not true, and are hereby strongly denied. It is hoped that, with the gendarmerie personnel's faith in the revolution and the leader of the revolution. they will continue their religious and legal duty.

[Signed] Commander of the Iranian National Gendarmerie.

Palaces Confiscated

LD071552 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 7 Mar 79 LD

[Text] In the city of Birjand today, the expeditionary executive forces of Ayatollah Khomeyni confiscated the two residential palaces named Amirabad and Shokatabad, belonging to Assadollah Alam [former minister of court] and his family. Yesterday, the revolutionary guards also confiscated the other two palaces in Hirjand named Akbariyeh and Rahimabad.

Spokesman Denies Bazargan Resignation

LD071548 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 7 Mar 79 LD

[Text] A government spokesman has strongly denied a report on the resignation of Engineer Mehdi Bazargan, broadcast on the Voice of the Masses radio.

Former Israeli Embassy

LD071804 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Hani al-Hasan, head of the PLO office in Iran, today revealed that Israel had used its embassy in Tehran as an important espionage center against Iran and all the Arab countries. Hani al-Hasan emphasized that the Zionist espionage activities in Iran had taken place in coordination with the espionage organizations of the U.S. CIA and Iran's former political police, SAVAK.

He added: The headquarters of the Israeli economic mission in Tehran, which now belongs to the PLO, has 130 rooms, each of which is equipped with three locks. Hani al-Hasan added: Our struggle against Zionism will help the Iranian nation's struggle, since Zionism is our joint enemy. Therefore, we should confront and defeat it.

Appointments in Abadan, Esfahan

LD071846 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Mr Hadavi, the revolution's prosecutor general, made a number of appointments in the Abadan and Esfahan courts. These appointments are as follows: 'Abdolmajid Zargar, public prosecutor to Abadan's revolution court; Morteza Eshraqi, public prosecutor to Esfahan's revolution court; Nasrollah Same'i, assistant public prosecutor to Esfahan's revolution court; and Gholam-Hoseyn Sadeqi Qahhareh, investigative judge to Esfahan's revolution court.

Bill for 1979 Budget

LD071954 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The supplementary bill for the 1979 budget, which totals about 160 billion rials, was approved by the Council of Government and endorsed by the Revolution Council yesterday. Part of this bill was connected with the increase in the salaries of government employees. The minister of state for plan and budget organization, in an interview with our colleague, Hasan Hafezi, confirmed that the increase in salaries connected with this bill is the same increase approved by previous governments.

Mr Mo'infar, the new minister of state for plan and budget organization, said: Previous usurping governments, in order to keep the employees quiet and in order to portray their demands as those of a welfare and guild nature, and not as political and revolutionary demands, very speedily resorted to unreasonable acts of largesse, began making inexcusable payments and left us this inheritance. The minister of state for plan and budget organization then said: At any rate, the present government is facing such problems. But as a number of government employees had based their calculations on the same figures and salaries, and because it would not have been right at this juncture to create financial problems for them, such increases in the supplementary budget stemming from changing the pay scale from 80 to 90 rials and other increments connected with travel allowances and others, have been given full consideration. In this respect, the government has never wished to cause the least inconvenience to its employees. However, these increments and assistance are being given with the hope that the honorable employees and staff of the government will increase their endeavors and enthusiasm.

Revolution Court in Qahramanshahr

LD071914 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Mar 79 LD

[Text] His Eminence the Ayatollah Jalili, in an interview with the correspondent of the PARS agency, has announced the setting up of the court of the people's Islamic revolution [dadgah-e enqelab-e eslami-ye khalq] in Qahramanshahr [formerly Kermanshah]. His Reverence Hajj Sheykh Baha 'Oddin 'Eraqi, His Reverence 'Abdolkhaliq Esfahani and a number of judges will investigate the accusations leveled against accused and detainees at this court.

Oil Revenue to Workers

LD072048 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1930 GMT 7 Mar 79 LD

[Text] NIOC today announced that the revenue obtained from the sale of Iran's first oil export convoy, which totals about 10 billion rials, will be placed in the loans and cooperative fund of workers throughout Iran. Previously in the message from Mr Mehdi Bazargan, prime minister of the provisional government of the Iranian Islamic revolution, which was read on 5 March at Jazireh-ye Khark by Mr Hasan Nazih, it was mistakenly said that the funds obtained from the sale of the first convoy of Iranian oil would be devoted to the loans and cooperative fund of the NIOC workers.

Similarly, at a suggestion from the chairman of the board of governors and managing director of NIOC, a portion of the oil revenues, which could be the revenues of 1 day per month, will in future be spent on the reconstruction of provinces. This will begin in Khuzestan. In the meantime, the necessary attention will be paid to the immediate welfare requirements of oil workers.

Fars Governor General

LD072208 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 7 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Mr Nosratollah Amini, the new governor general of Fars Province, today attended a general staff meeting of the governorate and called for cooperation and help from the people of Shiraz. He said that the most important aims would be improving the agricultural situation in the region.

In an interview with a PARS correspondent, the governor general said with regard to his meeting with Ayatollah Mahallat: During that meeting it was decided that all the committees in Shiraz should be dissolved, and that all affairs should be controlled by the relevant responsible officials. By holding discussion meetings in mosques and monasteries I hope that people's disputes can be solved through arbitration. Only antipeople individuals and the deeds they have perpetrated should be investigated carefully, intelligently and with circumspection, and then the necessary decision should be made.

Naderi on Foreign Banks

LD080014 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2230 GMT 7 Mar 79 LD

[Text] According to an AP report, the Iranian Government has invited foreign banks to cooperate with them. Fereydun Naderi, international director general of the Central Bank of Iran, has announced that he is busy conveying Telex messages to the branches of banks from the United States, Europe and Japan in order to reassure them that the situation is now calm and that foreign banks can, with their cooperation, continue their work with the Iranian banking system. In an interview, Mr Naderi said: Following foreign banks' closure of their representations' offices in Iran in the wake of the disturbances of the past few months, a few of these banks have now resumed their work, and most of them have stated that in a period of less than 2 weeks they will resume their activities.

REPORTAGE ON EVENTS, INCIDENTS OF 8 MARCH

NIOC Director on Negotiations

LD081139 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Mr Hasan Nazih, the managing director of the NIOC, and a number of NIOC experts this morning participated in a radio, television and press interview and answered questions by local and foreign correspondents.

In answer to a question on Iran's present and future relations with the Consortium, Mr Nazih said: Negotiations with the Consortium have not started yet, but we are ready to hold negotiations with Consortium members in the same way that we are prepared to negotiate with any other customer. One of the correspondents asked about the prospect of using Palestinian experts in the oil industry, and in general about using foreign experts in Iran's national oil industry. Mr Nazih said: In general, we shall need very few experts. We refer to all foreigners as experts whereas most of them may be described as extras on a movie set. It is envisaged that we will employ very few people from abroad, in all categories. Some people may be employed, if necessary, from Palestine, possibly maintenance experts or other types.

Entezam on Redundant Workers

LD081231 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Mar 79 LD

[Excerpts] Mr 'Abbas Amir Entezam, the government spokesman, met with press, radio and television reporters today. He said that the Council of Ministers of the Provisional Islamic Government has decided that ministries, organizations and enterprises which are covered by the civil employment act, and other organizations not covered by the act, should place regular and contract employees whom they regard as redundant at the disposal of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, so it can find them jobs and employment in other government agencies and so that such employees' pay for a maximum of 6 months should be paid from the credit allocations of the ministries and government agencies concerned. Continuing his remarks, he referred to occupation of people's lands by certain individuals, and said: Recently, unfortunately, there have been infringements of public agricultural land, such as land by the sides of major roads and highways. This infringement of public land is regarded as occupation by force. Should there by any infringement of this kind anywhere in the country, the land occupied must be freed or else the violators and those who have committed the infringement will be legally prosecuted.

Israeli Communication System

LD081233 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Engineer Akbar Vani, supervisor of the civil aviation organization, announced that as of 7 March his organization had stopped using the Israeli teletype satellite communications system, and that the budget for this purpose--amounting to 240,000 rials per month--had been cut off at the same time.

AYATOLLAH SHARIAT-MADARI INTERVIEWED BY ITALIAN PAPER

LD071305 Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 5 Mar 79 P 5 LD

[Ettore Mo interview in Qom with Ayatollah Shariat-Madari: "An Ayatollah Explains Why Marx Was Unacquainted With Islam"--date not specified]

[Excerpt] Qom--[Question] Do you believe that Islamic laws can work positively in societies as complex as those of today?

[Answer] There has never been a better time to put the rules of Islam into practice. And in answer to all Western fears that a religious dictatorship is about to be born in Iran, I say this: Islam is a religion whose source of power lies in the nation, in the people, and which is therefore opposed to any kind of authoritarian government, whether headed by a single person or by a political group.

[Question] The Iranian revolution is spreading. Demonstrations and unrest are appearing in other Islamic countries, in all the Arab nations south of Persia. There is also unrest among the Muslim populations in the Soviet Union close to your northern border. Is there a danger of intervention from abroad?

[Answer] The Muslims in Russia are certainly not in a position to revolt. As for the possibility of an intervention by the Soviet Union, we regard it as much smaller than in the past. And as for what is happening in other countries, that is their affair--domestic politics which do not concern us.

[Question] What influence did the leftwing forces have in the revolution?

[Answer] The revolution was carried out by 35 million Iranians; the leftwing forces total 10,000; draw your own conclusions.

[Question] What political significance do you attach to the meeting and embrace between Khomeyni and Palestinian leader 'Arafat?

[Answer] It signifies that the previous Iranian Government was on the Jews' side, while the present one is on the opposite side and supports Palestine's cause.

[Question] Could there be any similarities between Al-Qadhdhafi's leadership and the government of the future Islamic republic of Iran?

[Answer] There will not. It will be a democratic republic, (he will have to reach an agreement with Khomeyni--CORRIERE editor's note) which Libya is not. And also Iran has carried out a different kind of revolution from Libya's.

[Question] It is being said in the West that while religion is important, oil is no less so. Will there not be a conflict between the need for a successful economy and the Islamic rules?

[Anser] I am surprised by this question. We cannot attach greater importance to oil than the previous government, which thought only about exporting crude. And $30 million a month ended up in just one person's pocket--you know whose. Now the profits will be distributed among the people.

OPPOSITION LEADER AHMAD BANI-AHMAD RELEASED

OW080141 Hong Kong AFP in English 0124 GMT 8 Mar 79 OW

[Text] Teheran, 7 Mar (AFP)--Ahmad Bani-Ahmad, the founder of the Union for Freedom Party who was arrested here on Sunday on orders of the Teheran public prosecutor, was freed today on orders of new "general prosecutor for the revolution" Mehdi Hadavi, informed sources said.

Mr Bani-Ahmad, who was well-known for his opposition to the ousted shah of Iran, Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, was said to have been on his way to see Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan when he was arrested. Mr Bazargan, the sources said, had since sent his apologies to Mr Bani-Ahmad.

There has been no explanation for the arrest so far. Unconfirmed rumours had previously suggested that Mr Bani-Ahmad may have been arrested on suspicion of collaboration with the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

'ARAB STRUGGLERS FRONT' FORMED IN QAHRAMANSHAHR

JN072039 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2030 GMT 7 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Tehran, 7 March--The evening newspaper KAYHAN issued in Tehran, reports that a front called the Arab Strugglers Front [jabhat al-munadilin al-'arab] has been formed in Qahramanshahr. The front has taken the U.S. Consulate building as its headquarters. The paper adds that despite the fact that the front was formed a few days ago, thousands of youths and citizens have registered to join it. The paper points out that Shaykh Muhammad Tahir Khaqani supported the establishment of this front, which has announced that it will seek to guard Iran's southern border.

NVOI DISCUSSES RETURN OF IRANIANS RESIDING ABROAD

TA062239 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 1 Mar 79 TA

[Unattributed commentary: "Honorable Children of Our Nation Are Ready To Serve the Revolution"]

[Text] All levels and classes of people, parties and organizations, as well as national and democratic forces participated in bringing about the national, democratic and Islamic victory. Under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni, the monarchy was overthrown and a provisional revolutionary government established, adding a new page to the proud history of our country, Iran. From the very first day the provisional revolutionary government set about exposing the remnants of the evil antinational former regime and began introducing democratic rights. The present government made equality one of its important aims. The accomplishment of this important aim requires the support, help and full participation of all the people of Iran.

Tens of thousands of patriotic Iranians, because of the existence of the evil Pahlavi court, and because they were pursued by the police and the Aryamehr security forces, were forced to leave their country and for years have lived abroad. Who are these countrymen of ours who still live abroad? These are people who more than 30 years ago struggled against the self-imposed regime of countryless Mohammad Reza Shah. They struggled for freedom and wanted what we have today under the shadow of the revolution. These patriots, who always loved their country, while away from it for many years, not for one moment stopped thinking about ways to free their country from the despotic claws of Mohammed Reza Khan. They shared and continue to share in the sadness and happiness of their countrymen. These champions of freedom and rights were the uncompromising enemies of the shah's regime. During their stay abroad, they worked for freedom for the people and the development and improvement of their beloved Iran. We can find these patriotic people in the countries of Europe, America and Asia. Fortunately, now that the despotic and countryless shah, at the hands of the able forces of Iranian people, has been exiled and his evil monarchy has been overthrown, and the provisional revolutionary government has taken over, the road has been paved for these patriotic children of our nation to return and participate in the building of a free and flourishing Iran.

After the victory of the revolution, a great many Iranians residing abroad sent congratulatory letters and telegrams praising the victory of the people of Iran. They have stated their continuous desire to return to their country.

Only a few days ago the Voice of Iranian Revolution broadcast the text of a letter from the political refugees residing in the USSR. Many newspapers published the text of this letter which was addressed to Engineer Bazargan, prime minister of the provisional government. In the letter, they stated: We are Iranians who, because of pressures by the evil regime and the Pahlavi security organization, which supposedly was to protect the people, were forced to leave our families and country for many years. We are happy that recent developments have made it possible for us to return and join the honorable people of Iran in serving the revolution. Thus, we will be able to put to work, with infinite enthusiasm, the scientific knowledge and expertise which we have obtained while in exile. This will be done for the pride and development of the country and the happiness of the people. These letters and telegrams are arriving in Tehran from all those Iranians who struggled against the former regime and because of it were forced to reside in foreign countries. In all these letters and telegrams, Iranians abroad state their willingness to return to Iran and to their families as soon as possible, and offer their genuine service to the people and the country, in order to participate in building a free and happy Iran.

The victory of the Islamic revolution and the overthrow of the ugly regime has given hope to tens of thousands of families who have suffered from not seeing their children and loved ones because of the evil regime. Our country remembers well these determined opposers of slavery and loyal friends of the revolution. These diligent experts could not utilize their knowledge, expertise and talents in the service of the people and the country under the evil regime. The present situation and the well-being of our country calls for preparations for the return of these people to the arms of their families and country, so that together with all the people of Iran they will build a new, free Iran. The people and families of those residing abroad expect the Provisional Revolutionary Government, which has made the protection of human rights the center of its program, to provide the necessary means for the return of these deserving and loyal children of the nation.

NVOI URGES PEASANTS TO ACT NOW TO BETTER THEMSELVES

TA072350 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1815 GMT 1 Mar 79 TA

[Unattributed commentary: "Revolution and the Great Historic Opportunity for the Peasants"]

[Text] The revolution has created an historic opportunity for the peasants. This historic opportunity can and should work for the rights and the future of the hard-working and suffering peasants along with the rest of society. The revolution has placed this historic opportunity at the disposal of the peasants who can and should work for the elimination of the old order and the introduction of a new way of life in the villages. However, first the peasants must be reminded that their expectations can only be met if they themselves participate in bringing about conditions which will benefit them and fulfill their wishes. The peasants must not sit and wait for others to fulfill their wishes.

For centuries Iranian villages have been under feudal, landlord and large landowner domination. For centuries the landlords, neocapitalists and foreign companies, with the aid of gendarmes and intruders, have plundered the fruits of the peasants' labour. While the peasant suffered poverty and hunger, they took his hard-earned profits. This evil regime brought nothing but poverty, hunger, backwardness, illiteracy and the lack of medical attention for the peasant.

This way of life must stop. The peasants must eliminate the old order and its neocolonialist oppression. Now is the time for action. We must not delay.

For centuries the deceitful neocolonialists and landlords said that the peasants could not survive without them. However, it has now been proven that the welfare of the peasants is in the hands of the peasants. If farmers can enjoy democracy and freedom, the Iranian villages can quickly overcome backwardness and introduce improvements in the life of the peasants as well as urban dwellers. The Iranian revolution has created the opportunity for the struggling peasants and farmers to achieve freedom, guaranteeing their future. The revolution was created by the people of the cities and villages. These people must take advantage of the benefits of the revolution during the formation of the new society and put their plans to work.

NVOI: U.S. WANTS ALLIANCE OF PERSIAN GULF STATES

TA072356 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1815 GMT 1 Mar 79 TA

[Unattributed commentary: "U.S. Plans for the Near East"]

[Text] The overthrow of the stateless shah has caused the Americans to loose their important strategic bases in the Near East and the Persian Gulf. Washington is deeply concerned because it can no longer depend on our free present-day Iran to act as a gendarme against national freedom movements in this region. The Americans can no longer use Iran as a base for air reconnaissance and electronic surveillance for the benefit of their military and imperialist policies. Since the Americans lost their Iranian bases, they have been trying to form a bloc with the participation of Egypt and Israel. This bloc would back America in the Near East. The Americans are striving to form a military alliance under the leadership of Saudi Arabia to make up for their losses in Iran. The United States is trying to attract Oman, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates to this alliance.

The aim of Secretary of Defense Brown during his trip to the Middle East was to fulfill these plans. In Cairo, Brown said that the prompt conclusion of the Egyptian-Israeli agreement could be considered the first step toward forming a new military alliance. Egyptian President as-Sadat, who sold out the Arabs and the Arab question in general, has assured Brown that with U.S. military support, Egypt can take the place of Iran in the Near East. Egypt can take over the role of gendarme to put down national freedom movements in Arab countries, including countries on the Persian Gulf. As-Sadat's American-inspired policies not only strengthen Israel's interference in the Middle East, they also stand in the way of national democratic movements. The military alliance which the United States is striving to establish in the Near East is to be used in pursuit of U.S. neocolonialist policies in this region. According to the Americans, this military alliance must expand its sphere of influence to the regions of the Persian Gulf and play the role of gendarme in this oil-rich region, placing the new Iranian regime under its military influence.

It has been learned that the stateless shah, who is living as an ordinary citizen in Morocco, is planning to accept As-Sadat's invitation to go to Egypt for an undetermined period of time. This once again proves that As-Sadat on U.S. orders is using the traitors of our country for political and destructive reasons to oppose the present revolutionary government of Iran.

Brown pursued the policy of intervention in Saudi Arabia. He was successful with the Saudis in expanding a U.S. military presence. Washington wants to replace its lost bases in Iran with others in Saudi Arabia. That is why Brown assured Saudi Arabia that American military bases in Oman, Bahrain and Diego Garcia in the India Ocean would protect and support Saudi Arabia if it replaced Iran in the Persian Gulf. Moreover, Brown promised to supply military aid and weapons to certain Persian Gulf states if they would allow neocolonial American policies to exist there.

Brown announced that the time had come when the powerful American Army would be sent to the Persian Gulf if the need arose. At the same time, Brown discussed the situation in Iran and warned of its influence on the political situation in the Persian Gulf and surrounding states. Brown's fears are not unfounded. In fact, Iran's example could encourage the enlightened people of Saudi Arabia, Oman and other Persian Gulf countries to revolt against neocolonialist American policies. This type of military alliance with the United States is designed to obstruct the struggles of the people of this region and to prevent them from gaining complete freedom.

NVOI CALLS FOR VIGILANCE AGAINST 'INTERVENTION'

TA071944 [Editorial Report TA] The Clandestine National Voice of Iran in Azerbaijani to Iran at 1745 GMT on 6 March carries a commentary entitled "Let Us Foil the Plots of Reaction and Imperialism Through Vigilance." The commentary says: Making use of SAVAK agents and the ousted shah's evil supporters, reaction and imperialism are creating incidents and acts of terror in our cities with the aim of undermining the Iranian people's revolution. "Seemingly, the U.S. imperialists, the masters of the ousted regime, have officially recognized the Provisional Revolutionary Government, but in actual fact they are panicked and (?are trying) to interfere in our internal affairs. Observers note that U.S. imperialism is panicky and is (?concentrating) its armed forces and naval units near our country to intervene and to restore its position in Iran at the first opportunity."

The commentary then says: The nation's enemies and the shah's supporters are active everywhere, trying to create confusion. In Tabriz, Masshad, Esfahan and Abadan, and in Iran itself, the antirevolutionary elements and supporters of the former regime are engaged in plots and provocations designed to intimidate the people and to create unrest. More than 8,000 SAVAK agents, aided by CIA agents, are engaged in all this activity. "Their aim is to provoke terror and thereby create an excuse for their American masters to interfere in the country's internal affairs. One should not for a moment ignore the fact that the enemy is only wounded--it has not yet been completely destroyed." Pro-shah criminals and U.S. imperialism have not yet abandoned the idea of striking at the Iranian revolution. Under these circumstances it is the task of both the nation and the national and revolutionary forces to double their vigilance and to foil the plots and subversive activities of the enemies of the revolution.

The commentary then refers to the forthcoming referendum and says: The Provisional Revolutionary Government is making the necessary preparations for the forthcoming referendum. The people are preparing themselves to reject the despised imperial regime and to vote for a republic. "The aim of our country's successful revolution is to establish independence and democracy, a sound economy and general prosperity and social welfare. There is no doubt that the Iranian nation will vote for a republic, because that is what it wants. This is the main cause of the uneasiness which prevails among the ousted regime's remnants and, especially, among their American masters. That is why they could attempt a coup any time."

"Our nation has won a victory in the process of achieving its aspirations. The imperial regime has collapsed and a Provisional Revolutionary Government has taken over the country's affairs. But this is only one of the targets in the process of fulfilling our nation's aspirations. We must mobilize all our revolutionary efforts toward the fulfilment of national aspirations. Acting in unity and solidarity, let us foil the plots of reaction and imperialism. Unity and revolutionary vigilance will guarantee our nation's future victories."

AFGHANISTAN

YUGOSLAV TRADE MINISTER MEETS LEADERS, SIGNS PROTOCOL

Meetings With Taraki, Amin

BK080640 Kabul in English to South Asia 1400 GMT 7 Mar 79 BK

[Text] The Information Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports that Nur Mohammad Taraki, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister, received for an [word indistinct] meeting His Excellency Metod Rotar, the Yugoslav minister for foreign trade, in the People's Hall at (10) this morning. Abdul Qodus Ghorbandi, the minister of commerce, and His Excellency (Afdan Ribasu), the Yugoslav ambassador in Kabul, were also present on the occasion.

The Information Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also reports that Hafizollah Amin, vice premier and the minister of foreign affairs, received His Excellency Metod Rotar, the Yugoslav minister for foreign trade, this afternoon.

The Yugoslav minister has come to Kabul at the head of a delegation to participate in the talks in the Afghan economic, technical, cultural and commercial summit. Abdul Qodus Ghorbandi, the minister of commerce, and His Excellency (Afdan Ribasu), the Yugoslav ambassador in Kabul, were also present at the (?conference).

Signing of Protocol

BK080642 Kabul in English to South Asia 1400 GMT 7 Mar 79 BK

[Text] The economic, scientific, technical, cultural and trade protocol between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the Yugoslav Federal Socialist Republic was signed in the Ministry of Commerce yesterday afternoon.

The protocol was signed by Abdul Qodus Ghorbandi, the minister of commerce, on behalf of Afghanistan, and His Excellency Metod Rotar, the Yugoslav minister for foreign trade who led his country's delegation at a joint commission between the two countries. (Fakir Mohammad Sharif), the deputy minister of external affairs, and (Afdan Ribasu), the Yugoslav ambassador in Kabul, were also present on the occasion.

According to the protocol, the Yugoslav Government is participating in some of the development projects of the 5-year development plan of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan by investment of financial expenditures through the [words indistinct]. Moreover, Yugoslav technical help in various fields would be offered as assistance in development activities for Afghanistan.

INDIA

DESAI STATEMENT ON DELAY IN SUPPLY OF U.S. NUCLEAR FUEL

BK071507 Delhi ISI in English 1433 GMT 7 Mar 79 BK

[Text] Prime Minister Morarji Desai made on 7 March the following statement in the Rajya Sabha in reply to a calling attention notice regarding "the reported Indo-U.S. differences on supply of nuclear fuel for Tarapur atomic plant."

The calling attention notice refers to the reported Indo-U.S. differences on supply of nuclear fuel for the Tarapur atomic plant. I wish to inform this House that, on the question of the supply of enriched uranium for the Tarapur atomic power station, there are no differences between the Government of India and the Government of the U.S.A. The President of the United States has committed himself to making the supplies. The United States administration is also trying its best to ensure that the pending licences are cleared promptly.

There is no doubt that delays have taken place in clearing the licences and effecting the supplies, but these delays have occured not because of any fault of the U.S. administration but because of the cumbersome procedures involving the Nuclear Regulatory Commission of the U.S.A. which, under the existing procedures, has to approve the licences. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has its own procedures including, as happened in the present case, public proceedings whenever there are objections raised by anyone--in this case by the environmentalists in the U.S.A. It is likely that the decision of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will be known by the middle of this month.

In our discussions with the United States and in my correspondence with President Carter we have maintained that the U.S. Nonproliferation Act does not in any way affect the obligations which the U.S. Government has undertaken under the agreement with us and that the contractual obligations undertaken by the U.S.A. and which stipulate supplies of enriched uranium fuel for Tarapur, must be acted upon.

It is the uncontestable obligation of the U.S. Government to honour this agreement notwithstanding any domestic legislation of theirs and any failure to do so would constitute a breach of the agreement, releasing us from any obligation to adhere to the restrictive clauses of the contract. We would then be free to tap alternative sources to meet our own needs. I can assure the House that whether near or remote, we are preparing ourselves to meet the contingency.

Further Statement

BK080943 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Mar 79 BK

[Text] The prime minister told the Rajya Sabha today that the U.S. authorities have not given any valid reason for the persistent delay in the clearance of two pending export license applications for enriched uranium for the Tarapur atomic power plant.

In a written reply, Mr Morarji Desai said the charges for 2.4 percent enriched uranium to India are now around 449 U.S. dollars per kilogram. These are scheduled to go up by 45 U.S. dollars from the 24th of next month. Mr Desai said the government is not aware of any difference in the so-called nuclear club about excessive charges for enriched uranium by American companies. While natural uranium is available commercially, the enriching service is controlled by the U.S. Government. Natural uranium is presently being quoted at about 43.40 U.S. dollars per pound.

VAJPAYEE REITERATES CONCERN OVER PAKISTANI NUCLEAR POLICY

BK080825 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 8 Mar 79 BK

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, told the Lok Sabha today that the government is aware of the report that Pakistan has embarked upon a nuclear program which may not be entirely for peaceful purposes. He said if this report was correct it would be a serious matter.

Mr Vajpayee said that Pakistan has an ongoing nuclear program and it is certain that the arrangements have also been made for the import of nuclear material. Details of such imports are however not known, he added.

VAJPAYEE: NO IMPEDIMENT TO DALAI LAMA RETURNING TO TIBET

BK080804 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 8 Mar 79 BK

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Vajpayee, said in the Lok Sabha today that the government will not stand in the way of the Dalai Lama and the Tibetans if they decide to go back to Tibet.

Replying to a question, he said the government does not come into the picture at all so far as their return to Tibet is concerned. He added that none of the Tibetan refugees will be forced to act against his wish. Mr Vajpayee reiterated the government's policy that it regards Tibet as a region of China.

PAKISTAN

FURTHER DETAILS ON BHUTTO REVIEW PETITION HEARING

BK080600 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 7 Mar 79 BK

[Text] In the review petition in the Mohammad Ahmad Khan murder case before the Supreme Court today, the defense counsel made a submission about the scope of the review petition and the quantum of the sentence. The court directed the defense counsel to select a few more important points in support of his review petition and to submit them on Sunday.

The court observed that though the (?facts) have been inquired into extensively in the issue, it would like to include a few more points to supplement the case. The court accepted the request of Mr Yahya Bakhtiar, as he wanted to speak on the main grounds against the misreading and misapplication of the evidence on record which, he said, had affected his case. The court declared that it will dispose of the petition finally after he concludes his submissions. The defense counsel was also directed to be concise in his points and include there only those which had not been argued earlier.

Mr Yahya Bakhtiar submitted that he was aware of the scope of the review petition but that the Supreme Court would have to consider that his client was deprived of a right of appeal, as the case was not heard by the sessions court. It therefore requires consideration.

The court observed that the scope of review would not be enlarged. It had already been given a lot of time in the first appeal.

The defense counsel submitted that there had been wrong assumption of facts, misuse of evidence and a number of points not considered before arriving at a conclusion. There has been no determination of certain issues and even the benefit of the doubt has not been given to his client. On the quantum of sentence, the defense counsel cited a number of case laws and pleaded for lesser punishment.

Earlier this morning, the prosecution counsel, Mr Ejaz Husain Batalvi, on a question from the court submitted that the judges who wrote a minority judgment have every right to set up a bench to hear the review petition. The prosecution counsel made a submission dealing with the situation arising out of the review petition filed in relation to a judgment of the Supreme Court in which a minority view had also been expressed. He submitted that the majority judgment is the judgment of the court, while the minority view is the opinion of the judges.

He submitted that the judgment of the Supreme Court is binding on all other courts except the Supreme Court itself. The majority decision is an institutional decision which means the laying down of the law.

The chief justice, Mr Justice S. Anwarul Haq, observed that the right of the minority in the present case would prove judicial independence at the highest level. This was part of the judicial process and he is proud that he had the privilege of presiding over the Supreme Court Bench, which was completely independent in arriving at a decision according to their conscience.

Mr Ejaz Husain Batalvi submitted that there is no single case in judicial history where a majority judgment was under review when the minority judges on the bench had written a different judgment, and that the review petition has to be distinguished from an appeal.

AFP Report

BK071605 Hong Kong AFP in English 1542 GMT 7 Mar 79 BK

[Text] Islamabad, March 7 (AFP)--A Pakistani Supreme Court judge who played a key role in sentencing to death former Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto appeared today to favour commuting the sentence to life imprisonment.

The development was implicit today during a Supreme Court review petition hearing of the case in which Mr Bhutto was found quilty of plotting to murder a political rival. The judge in question, who was not named during today's debates, was one of seven judges who heard the appeal against the findings of the Lahore High Court which in March last year handed down the death sentence.

Four out of the seven judges favoured rejecting the appeal and three favoured acquitting 51-year-old Mr Bhutto.

It would not appear that the majority has shifted and that four judges are opposed to the execution of Mr Bhutto.

The situation is unprecedented in Pakistan's judicial history but there was no certainty today that it would affect Mr Bhutto's position.

Mr Bhutto's prosecutors argue that the three judges who favor acquitting him cannot intervene in the matter of sentencing, and that only judges recognising his conviction can do so.

For the defence, the fact that Mr Bhutto could be executed because of the wishes of a minority of the deciding judges, and that the views of thcse favouring acquittal could not be taken into consideration, "hurts human conscience."

Chief Justice Anwarul Haq said that the difficulties encountered "proves the independence of the judiciary in Pakistan" and said the court was to debate the questions raised in depth. He set the next hearing for Sunday.

HAQ WILL STAND BY COURT'S DECISION IN BHUTTO CASE

BK081027 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 8 Mar 79 BK

[Text] The president, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has said that his recently stated stand on the case of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto has been further strengthened and there is no possibility of any change on it. He was informally talking to newsmen after laying the foundation stone of a multimillion Fauji Foundation fertilizer factory at Goth Machhi near Rahimyar Khan this afternoon.

Asked to comment about the correct position about the recent meeting with the former federal minister, Mr Abdul Hafiz Pirzada, with him in Rawalpindi, he said the sum total of it was that Mr Pirzada wanted clemency for Mr Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. He said he made it clear to him that this was a criminal case. It was subjudice and any discussion on it would be futile, as it was before the court. He has also made it clear to him and wanted to reiterate today that his stand was that nobody should have the power to go against the verdict of the court. We stand by this principle, he added.

SHI'ITE LEADER OPPOSES 'STRICT, RIGID ISLAMIC LAWS'

BK071550 Hong Kong AFP in English 1528 GMT 7 Mar 79 BK

[Text] Islamabad, 7 March (AFP)--An influential leader of the Shi'ite Moslem community in Pakistan, Allama Nasirul Ijtehadi, today opposed rigid enactment of Islamic laws in the country. Talking to newsmen he said the 30,000,000 believers of the Moslem Shia sect will not accept the laws introduced by President Ziaul Haq last month which were based on the belief of the majority Hanafi sect in Pakistan.

He said he was not for a secular system of government in the country but said people want democracy in Pakistan free from religious cult. Rigid Islamic laws would mean a sectarian type of government which he said would not be in the interest of the country.

He said the system of zakat (taxation) and Islamic penal laws introduced by the government last month were contrary to Shi'ite beliefs. He had talked to President Ziaul Haq on the subject. The president assured him that the Islamic ideology conference, looking after the implementation of Moslem laws, would consider their point of view.

The Shia leader disclosed that in the Shi'ite sect the hand of a thief is not amputated from the wrist but only fingers are chopped off. Similarly the rate of the zakat tax is not 2.5 percent in the Shia community. Instead all Shia believers have to pay one-fifth of their liquid capital.

He said he was satisfied with his talks with the president on the issue and hoped that an announcement would be made by General Ziaul Haq soon.

He did not comment on the Islamic laws introduced by the Shi'ite leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni in Iran but added he was opposed to strict and rigid Islamic laws. He said "the picture in Iran was not very clear; therefore we are watching the situation there."

He said his sect which is 35 percent in the country would side only with that party which fights the next elections on a nonsectarian basis.

Meeting With Zia

BK080346 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Mar 79 BK

[Text] The president of the (Majilis-i Ulama-i Pakistan), Allama Nasirul Ijtihadi, has expressed satisfaction over President Mohammad Ziaul Haq's recent talks with the Shia representatives.